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# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

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## INSIDE



### Carter in N. Korea

Former President Jimmy Carter and other past world leaders were hoping to meet with North Korea's leader as they began a three-day mission.

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### Crackdown in Syria

Thousands of soldiers backed by tanks and snipers moved in before dawn to the city where Syria's anti-government uprising began.

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### Deficient Info

A D.C. police commander who oversees police escorts apparently was unaware of details about an escort given to Charlie Sheen.

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## IF NEW BILL BECOMES LAW

# CNMI voters to be asked if they approve reunification with Guam

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

If a bill introduced yesterday becomes law, then voters of Northern Marianas descent will be asked in the 2012 general election if they support a CNMI and Guam reunification.

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Palacios

## Disgruntled teacher stages campaign to oust MHS principal

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

### RELATED NEWS

'We will get to the bottom of protest to oust Garrison.'  
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A disgruntled educator and a few of his supporters yesterday staged a protest calling for the removal of Marianas High School principal Craig Garrison because of his leadership style and management practices that resulted, among others, to the "firing" of some of the institution's finest

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### Armstrong declines presidency of NMC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Only a few days after admitting he's excitement in becoming the next president of Northern Marianas College, Dr. Jeff Armstrong made a sudden change of heart reportedly sending a message to the

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Marianas High School teacher James Yangetmai, second from right, leads a small group of teachers and former MHS students at a peaceful protest at the Legislature yesterday afternoon. Inset, Yangetmai and supporters at the entrance to MHS early yesterday morning.



**ICE probes fraudulent scheme inviting aliens to come to Saipan to work. PAGE 3**  
**Car chase video of suspected big-time 'ice' dealer showed. PAGE 5**

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## Local

### 'We will get to the bottom of protest to oust Garrison'

A handful of Marianas High School teachers and former students, with placards and banners in tow, sought audience yesterday with the House of Representatives as part of their peaceful protest to oust MHS principal Craig Garrison over several issues that include alleged termination and reassignment of teachers on the campus.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), during a session, tasked the House Committee on Education to look into the allegations raised by the group led by MHS teacher James Yangetmai and to also hear from Garrison and other education officials.

Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), vice chair of the committee, said the panel would be calling in Garrison, Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan and the Board of Education, among others, to get their side of the story.

"We will get to the bottom of this, as what the speaker said," Basa told *Saipan Tribune* during a session break.

Education committee chair Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan) was absent from the session because he was feeling ill, Basa said.

But other House members including Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) said the alleged removal of teachers, as far as he knows, "is not up to Mr. Garrison" but is part of the

CNMI's compliance with the No Child Left Behind Act.

Deleon Guerrero and his colleagues at the House minority said the CNMI Public School System, along with other U.S. states and territories, is required to fill their classrooms only with highly qualified teachers by the July 30, 2011 deadline.

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) said Yangetmai and his group's concerns are "better taken up with the Board of Education and PSS" than the Legislature.

Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) lauded Yangetmai, a teacher of U.S. government at MHS, for standing up for what he believes in, but quizzed Yangetmai on his four-page letter titled "Let's Save Marianas High School, Kick Out Garrison."

House members took turns asking Yangetmai questions about his letter, copies of which were distributed in the House chamber yesterday.

Other members asked whether Yangetmai and his colleagues used the proper channels to air their grievances, including whether they met with the PSS leadership and the Board of Education on the matter rather than the Legislature.

There were also some members who shared their impressions and feelings about Garrison, who is also a former Saipan Southern High School principal.

But one member, Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), went a step further by describing Garrison a "pompous ass" during the House session, to the astonishment of his colleagues who said he shouldn't have said such words.

Deleon Guerrero, Basa and Palacios are also former teachers.

Former MHS vice principal Andy Dela Cruz, who was in the House chamber, also asked whether Yangetmai's group sought audience with PSS first before proceeding to the Legislature.

Nevertheless, Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) immediately introduced a bill seeking to protect public school teachers from termination without cause.

Torres' House Bill 17-182 amends the Education Act of 1988, requiring PSS to adopt and administer a merit personnel system so that all terminations and non-renewals are processed through an adopted grievance proceeding "and only with cause."

In his bill's findings, Torres said PSS employs many teachers and staff members who have "no due process protections when it comes to the termination of their employment."

After addressing the House members, Yangetmai and his group proceeded back to the MHS campus where he said they will continue their peaceful protest. **(Haidee V. Eugenio)**

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# TOWNHALL 2011

Face to Face with U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan



# ICE probes fraudulent scheme inviting aliens to come to Saipan to work

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement has investigated an alleged fraudulent scheme that invited Chinese nationals to come to Saipan to work at non-existing jobs.

On Monday, ICE agents arrested Hequian Ma on two counts of encouraging an alien to come to the United States.

Ma was taken to the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday afternoon for her initial court appearance.

According to the complaint, on Dec. 16, 2010, Ma encouraged or

induced Weifeng Guo and Yuyan Li, both citizens of the People's Republic of China, to come and enter the U.S. "knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that [their] entry is, our would be, in violation of U.S. law."

ICE special agent Isra D. Harahap stated in his affidavit that the investigation began on Feb. 3, 2011 when Guo and his wife, Li, came to their office on Saipan and reported that Ma defrauded them to come to Saipan from China to work at a massage shop.

Harahap said investigation showed that one Guangxu Chi recruited Guo and Li in September 2010 to work as massage

therapists in Australia.

The couple paid 30,000 RMB to Chi to make arrangements for them to go to Australia. After three months, Chi told them that the jobs in Australia were no longer available, but that they could go instead to Saipan and work.

Chi represented that Guo could make between 5,000 to 8,000 RMB per month, while Li could receive between 10,000 to 15,000 RMB on Saipan.

Chi provided the couple the telephone number of Ma, the alleged employment recruiter in Saipan.

On Dec. 10, 2010, Chi gave Guo and Li their electronic ticket to come to Saipan. Chi also provided the couple two notarized invitation letters from Mini Corp. in Tinian.

The letters were addressed to

Guo and Li, inviting them to come to Tinian to see if they were interested to invest in the company.

Chi instructed the couple to show the invitation letters if they fail to pass Immigration or Customs on Saipan.

Chi also gave Guo a copy of Ma's Chinese passport so they can recognize her at the Saipan airport. The couple signed a contract with Chi regarding going to Saipan to work.

On Dec. 14, 2010, Guo called Ma on the phone and Ma told him that they have to pay her \$2,150 for a sponsor fee when they arrive on Saipan.

Ma instructed Guo that if they are stopped by Immigration or Customs they should say that they are tourists visiting Saipan.

Ma told Guo that her friend has a massage business and she will

introduce them to her friend.

Guo arrived on Saipan on Dec. 16, 2010. As instructed by Ma, Guo told a U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer that he was not coming to work and was entering as a tourist.

Guo also showed to the officer the invitation letter from Mini Corp. on Tinian.

After their interviews, Guo spoke to Li and they decided that they would just return to China and ask for a refund.

Guo was surprised when the officer let them enter Saipan. The officer told them not to work, and if they do, they will be arrested.

The couple met Ma and Yuhong Jiao outside the Saipan airport. Guo told Ma that the officer told him he could not work, but Ma stated not to listen

to the officer.

The couple were given a room where they slept. Later that day, Ma knocked on the door and asked them for the \$2,150 sponsor fee.

Guo paid \$2,150 expecting Ma will change their immigration status from tourist to work permit.

As no jobs were given, the couple were able to contact Ma on Jan. 25, 2011 and told her they wanted to go back to China and asked for the return of their money.

Ma, who left Saipan for Tinian on Dec. 17, 2010, denied getting any money from the couple.

Special agent Harahap said that last Friday, he learned that Ma had a reservation to leave Saipan for Seoul, and then on to Hong Kong, on Monday, April 25, 2011, at 3am on Asiana Airlines.

## OAG wants federal court, not Superior Court to handle lawsuit over Marpi poles

The Office of the Attorney General wants the federal court and not the Superior Court to handle the lawsuit filed by the Friends of Marpi and co-plaintiffs against the CNMI government over the installation of power poles in Marpi.

The OAG, as counsel for the CNMI government and co-defendants in the case, filed yesterday a notice of removal of the lawsuit from the Superior Court.

In a press statement, Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham said as to the procedural aspects of this case, the position of the Commonwealth is that the issues raised were constitutional in nature.

"Because of this, removal to U.S. District Court is the appropriate location for this proceeding," Buckingham said.

As to the effect on the proceedings, Buckingham said the existing schedule remains in effect since it is simply the forum (court) that has changed.

On the respective positions of the parties in the case, the

AG didn't comment other than stating that "litigation is best accomplished in the courtroom rather than in the media."

In the notice of removal, assistant attorney general Gilbert J. Birnrich pointed out that the federal court has jurisdiction over the lawsuit.

Birnrich said as agencies and instrumentalities of the CNMI government, the defendants are nominal parties and as such, their consent to removal is not necessary.

In the defendants' opposition to plaintiffs' motion for issuance of preliminary injunction, Birnrich said the plaintiffs cannot and will never be able to establish any of their claims for relief.

Under any combination of factors, he said, plaintiffs cannot demonstrate that they are entitled to a preliminary injunction.

"What little irreparable harm, hardship or public interest that may fall in plaintiffs' favor cannot overcome the absence of

See OAG on Page 4



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**TOYOTA**



CNMI

From Page 1

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) introduced during yesterday afternoon’s House session House Bill 17-181, which is almost the same bill that Guam Sen. Judith Guthertz introduced the previous day asking Guam voters about reunification with the CNMI.

The question that will be asked of Northern Marianas descent voters will be: “Should the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam reunify in the pursuit of a new political status?”

Palacios said he has been communicating with Guthertz on the reunification bill which he made into a CNMI bill.

Just like in Guthertz’s bill, the question to voters in Palacios’ HB

17-181 is a non-binding one.

“The main intent is to open the door and see whether CNMI NMD voters like reunification, and then go from there,” Palacios told *Saipan Tribune*.

Palacios said it is too premature to say whether talks of reunification will lead to a push for statehood for both the CNMI and Guam.

Former speaker Oscar Rasa, who was a member of

the Marianas Political Status Commission, said yesterday that the issue is a lot more complex than merely asking voters whether they approve reunification or not.

He said it seems the CNMI and Guam bills are merely to “gauge peoples’ feelings about reunification.”

“What’s the system they are planning to set up?” he said.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili

Sablan, for his part, said yesterday that even before voters are asked about reunification, people should also be told about the nature and structure of the relationship between Guam and CNMI or of a unified Marianas.

He reiterated the Northern Marianas has a much smaller population than Guam, and any proposed reunification should ensure that the North-

ern Marianas is equally represented in government, among other things.

“It shouldn’t be only a question whether they want reunification or not, but also, what is reunification? What’s involved? Where is the balance?” he said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial’s administration said on Monday that the decision on reunification rests with the CNMI people by way of another plebiscite.

DISGRUNTLED

From Page 1

educators, a claim denied by the school administrator.

James Yangetmai, a highly qualified teacher at MHS for 26 years, appealed to his colleagues, students, and community members to join him in the campaign that according to him aims to protect the students’ quality of education and stop the low-morale among employees at the campus.

Yangetmai, along with his wife Denita, set up the mini-protest across the school’s entrance as early as 7am yesterday. With them were about six people holding slogans that read: “Save MHS: Kick out Garrison now!”

Shouting their sentiments over the megaphone, Yangetmai’s group became the center of attraction for motorists passing by the area. He claimed that yesterday’s protest was just the start of a weeklong campaign to oust the administrator until a decision from the education commissioner is rendered.

Among Yangetmai’s allegations against Garrison include the recent firing of more than 20 teachers majority of whom have been in the school and all highly qualified to teach. Yangetmai’s wife was among those who received what they labeled as “walking papers” last April 4.

“Since he assumed the position in the beginning of the

school year, we’re going in the wrong direction at MHS now. He fired nine teachers and four school aides at the beginning of school year...and I understand that there are some 20 teachers who will not be returning to MHS next school year, including my wife who is an HQT,” he told *Saipan Tribune* during yesterday’s protest.

Because of the principal’s leadership style, Yangetmai claimed that this created low morale among teachers who are afraid to speak about their thoughts.

“There is a great deal of uncertainty on everyone’s mind. Even those who will remain for the next school year aren’t happy and are also concerned for their job security. Morale at the school is really at an all-time low.”

Far from the truth

Garrison immediately denied Yangetmai’s allegations, saying that he had never ever fired anyone in the job, nor issued walking papers.

“No. It’s far from the truth. No one was terminated. No body was fired. When I first got here, I released four teachers for reassignment in December. They are now working at Kagman High School and Hopwood Junior High School. There are two reasons behind that decision: the pending decrease in PSS’ budget for next school year and because of the new instructional programs adopted

for the schools,” explained Garrison yesterday.

He added that based on PSS’ calculation and assessment for next school year, about 24 teachers have to be taken out from MHS.

Garrison revealed that when he came in at MHS, majority of the teachers are highly qualified but these are on the areas not for high school. A number of teachers have also been teaching only one subject, which he believes is not advantageous to students and the system. He said MHS is eyeing 47 classroom teachers for next school year.

Last April 4, he admitted issuing notices to about 20 individuals informing them of their reassignment next school year. As procedure, these teachers will report back to the PSS human resource office to identify the schools that most need their expertise. Principals of schools conduct interviews on these teachers.

However, Garrison explained that the individuals were also informed that some changes may still occur between now and the next school year.

More allegations

Yangetmai also accused Garrison of intentionally lowering down MHS so Saipan Southern High School will become the largest high school on island. Garrison is the former principal of SSHS.

“He has cut down the many trees planted by our students. That for us was a senseless thing to do. He destroyed our stage that was built also by former graduates. Next year, he’s planning to demolish 11 classrooms at Building F to prevent the coming in of additional students at MHS!” said Yangetmai, adding that Garrison even wants to return to SSHS next year.

In his defense, Garrison said he is a committed educator who aims to build a one system for schools, especially secondary schools. Like what he did at SSHS, the school administrator is determined to make good changes and positive developments for MHS.

He explained that the issue of cutting trees at the beginning of school year has already been clarified which was also a result of the “danger” assessed by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. if trees will continue to affect the power lines in the area.

The effort was also in line with the school’s plan to develop and beautify the campus parking space. The change in the school stage was also in line to ensure the safety of everyone on campus.

For building F, Garrison explained that the plan to demolish the facility was also for students’ safety. He claimed that MHS has enough classrooms to accommodate up to 1,500 students even without the said dilapidated facility.

Comments, reactions

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, meanwhile, refused to give comments yesterday, saying she needs to wait for the full report of MHS on the “protest issue.” She described the matter as “school-level” issue that must be first addressed within that scope.

Rabby Syed, who stopped by at the gathering, admitted that he has no position at this time until he is aware of issue. “I am a concerned parent of a student in MHS and I am here to listen what’s this issue is all about.”

Besides the Yangetmai couple, no one among the five other people present in the protest is a school teacher.

Applied as vice-principal for SSHS

Garrison admitted yesterday that he has applied for the open vice principal position at SSHS next school year. He described it as “an option should PSS fail to live up to the terms of agreement.”

Garrison was reassigned as MHS principal in September last year, as replacement for Karen Borja. He is receiving \$50,000 annual wage as SSHS principal with fewer students and responsibilities than administrator of MHS. He declined to elaborate the “terms of agreement” between him and PSS regarding the position.

Garrison is among the few school administrators who are highly certified. Negotiation are

ongoing to date. The maximum wage for school administrator is up to \$60,000 per annum.

He said his job at MHS is “to build sustainable programs that the school can keep and maintain.”

Not disappointed

Yangetmai said he was not disappointed despite the very low turnout of participants in yesterday’s protest.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that Yangetmai called a meeting among some teachers Monday afternoon.

“I am not disappointed at all. We have many silent supporters. I understand that they are not ready to be here today. Some teachers promised to me that they will be here tomorrow. We will be here throughout the week until we get a favorable decision from the commissioner,” said Yangetmai, adding that the continued stay of Garrison at MHS will risk the school’s accreditation.

Yangetmai’s group proceeded to the Legislature around noon to elevate their concerns to lawmakers.

Garrison revealed that Yangetmai failed to notify the school about his absence yesterday, making him AWOL (absence without official leave). The school administrator also admitted that yesterday’s event disrupted a bit of the school’s activities. Garrison described statements and allegations made by Yangetmai in yesterday’s issue of *Marianas Variety* as “erroneous and unfair.”

TWO

From Page 1

Levin and Webb’s Tinian visit was so brief that CNMI officials said there was practically no time set aside for a formal meeting or discussion on the military buildup.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the two senators’ visit was mainly to see the proposed sites for the firing ranges that will be built in Tinian as part of the military buildup in Guam.

The U.S. military plans to develop four live-fire training ranges on Tinian.

These include a platoon

battle course, an automated combat pistol/military police firearms qualification course, rifle known distance range, and a field firing range.

Tinian Legislative Delegation led by Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) presented a resolution to Levin and Webb “for supporting the continued relationship between” Tinian and the U.S. and its armed services.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan and Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian) separately said it’s good that Levin and Webb see for themselves the military sites on Tinian including the future site of the planned rifle changes.

San Nicolas, in a phone interview, said he would have wanted to hear more from Webb and Levin updates about the planned firing ranges on Tinian and whether there would be more economic opportunities for Tinian to benefit from the Guam military buildup.

Demapan, who flew to Tinian along with Inos and other officials, said once the senators and their staffers arrived, they boarded a tour bus along with the lieutenant governor and Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz for a ground tour of the Tinian atomic bomb pits and the proposed site for the firing ranges.

“Immediately following the

ground tour, the congressional delegation boarded their helicopters and departed for Guam,” Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

The press secretary said despite not having an opportunity to hold any formal discussions, the lieutenant governor thanked the U.S. senators at the conclusion of the tour for visiting Tinian and for their expressed interest in supporting the military buildup in the region.

“Lt. Gov. Inos also asked the visiting officials to consider affording more economic opportunities to the Commonwealth in terms of the impending buildup. The administration has been consistent in its stance to

maximize efforts to hone available opportunities to support or augment the military buildup while providing economic stimulation and job opportunities for the people of the CNMI,” Demapan said.

The Fitial administration, said Demapan, is always elated to see key congressional officials taking time to visit the CNMI.

“This latest visit is a testament that the U.S. is serious about moving forward with the military buildup in the region. We certainly would welcome more opportunities of congressional members calling on the CNMI and the local leadership,” he added.

Levin and Webb arrived in Guam Monday night, a week after 15 of their fellow U.S. senators had a refueling in Guam whose leaders were upset that the group didn’t meet with the island’s leadership.

From Guam, Levin and Webb went to Tinian on their way to Okinawa, Japan.

It was Levin’s first time to visit the CNMI, while Webb was also here in February 2010.

Levin and Webb, who is also chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee, have been set to visit Korea, Vietnam, Japan, Guam, and Tinian from April 16 to 29.

ARMSTRONG

From Page 1

college’s Board of Regents informing them that he is rejecting the position.

*Saipan Tribune* learned from a reliable source yesterday that Armstrong notified the board

as well as the college human resource office of his decision Monday, citing personal reasons in rejecting the contract.

Just last Friday, Armstrong told *Saipan Tribune* in an email that he is excited after receiving the contract offer to become NMC’s next chief executive officer, a position that was vacated

by Dr. Carmen Fernandez in January 2010.

Armstrong, who was the last of the top three picks to be offered the position, also earlier admitted that he is planning to travel to Saipan soon for an exploratory visit. He admitted also having an interest to the position and takes it as a challenge.

OAG

From Page 3

success,” Bimbrich said.

He said issuing a preliminary injunction will cause great harm to defendants because it is stopping the completion of a public cemetery and it is causing a dis-

ruption in the contractual relationship between the CNMI and its contractee.

The government lawyer said the disruption may cause severe financial cost to the CNMI.

“On the other hand, the only harm plaintiffs’ claim to be suffering is visual blight, a rather subjective harm,” he added.

On April 19, 2011, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo granted the plaintiffs’ motion for a temporary restraining order to momentarily stop the CNMI government from installing more power poles in Marpi until an evidentiary hearing is conducted on Friday, April 29. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



# CUC seeks lower rent for all offices

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will soon move out all its offices from the Joeten Dandan Commercial Center once suitable locations are identified that will give it substantial savings.

CUC executive director Abe Utu Malae disclosed yesterday that they have already informed the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission of its intention to relocate to a cheaper rental space for all its division offices.

The relocation plan was initiated during the tenure of former executive director Tony Muna to provide its customers more comfort in transacting business with the utilities firm by having a bigger facility and wider parking spaces for both clients and personnel.

CUC is currently located at the Joeten Dandan building paying a monthly lease of \$2,100 for all its offices both in the ground floor and third floor of the building.

"Primary problem is parking for customers, especially during those times of the month when

utility payments are due. It is also difficult and inefficient to equip and dispatch field personnel from the current third floor location," said Malae yesterday.

He said CUC anticipates saving several thousand dollars each month from the relocation. In a public hearing earlier this month, Malae informed CPUC that the agency would not move unless the new rate was at least 30 percent less than the current rent.

On Monday, two requests for proposals were issued by the agency seeking competitive bids for lease of office

spaces for administration and operation for Saipan and a separate RFP for office space for power division.

"Two RFPs were issued due to the unique space and parking requirements of the power transmission and distribution division," said Malae.

The executive director said CUC's agreement for the Dandan space will expire on July 18, 2011.

Although CUC officials earlier admitted that they may consider relocating to vacant government facilities, they hinted

that what they are looking for is an area that would be accessible to customers. CUC once held its offices in the now-abandoned La Fiesta Mall in San Roque. But due to the remote location, it returned its operation to the Joeten Dandan building after some years.

Besides the "inaccessible" location, CUC earlier disclosed that there is also another serious concern on the building that prompted the agency's decision referring to the cracks on the floors and walls in many of its offices.

Last month, CUC also relocated its water and wastewater offices to Sadog Tasi Treatment Facility to save on expenditures and for proper planning and coordination of the division activities.

The list of offices for the water and wastewater division include water treatment and distribution direct responsible charge, distribution repair, pump and motor mechanical, electrical, metering, distribution maintenance, wastewater operations, Sadog Tasi treatment plant direct responsible charge, Agingan treatment plant direct responsible charge, southern collections direct responsible charge, and northern collections direct responsible charge.

## US Probation Office seeks delay of sentencing of ex-cop in 'ice' case

The U.S. Probation Office on Monday asked the federal court to postpone the scheduled May 17, 2011 sentencing of a former police officer who pleaded guilty to "ice" trafficking charges.

U.S. Probation Officer Margarita D. Wonenberg requested the U.S. District Court for the NMI to postpone the sentencing of Florencio Quitugua Richards to July 12, 2011.

"The continuance will allow for the probation officer to complete the presentence report investigation," according to Wonenberg.

On Feb. 9, 2011, Richards pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute "ice," distribution of "ice," and possession of a firearm by a prohibited person.

The court then accepted Richards' guilty plea and the plea agreement. The court ordered the U.S. Probation Office to submit a pre-sentence investigation report by April 11, 2011.

The prosecution and defense counsel, Mike Evangelista, agreed that the sentencing guidelines range is 21 to 27 months in prison after reduction for acceptance of defendant's

responsibility.

According to the indictment, Richards and others conspired

in July 2010 to distribute "ice" in exchange for money and other things of value.

The total amount of "ice" distributed by an unindicted co-conspirator with Richards'

assistance, was less than .25 grams net weight, the agreement stated. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## UOG Math Day on April 30

The University of Guam's Division of Mathematical Sciences will hold the 4th Annual Mathematics Day on April 30, 2011 in Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration Building beginning at 8:30am with an awards ceremony for the Math Contest winners.

At 9am high school teams will compete in a math quiz competition. Teams from individual high schools will be

asked to solve math problems and trivia questions in front of a live audience. The deadline for high school teams to register for the Math Quiz competition is April 28.

At 11am participants will learn math-magic tricks, followed by a session about UOG's math major and job opportunities.

The event is sponsored by the Mathematical Association of America. (*UOG*)



### Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

Office of the Secretary  
Caller Box 10007  
Saipan, M.P. 96950  
Tel. 664-2576 • Fax. 664-2570

## Announcement

The Child Care and Development Fund is proposing to update the current Child Care and Development Fund Rules and Regulations. The following are the proposed changes/updates:

### Section 55-50-005 Definitions

- (t) Group Home Child Care Providers to add "with a maximum of 12"
- (v) In Home care provider to change definition to "means any individual who provides care in the home of the child"
- (x) to add definition of job search "is defined as an activity that demonstrates an individual is actively seeking potential employment. Qualifying job search activities include (but is not limited to) completing job applications in person, completing on-line computer applications at employment agencies and/or community agencies, engaging in interviews, registration at the CNMI Labor Office, and phone inquiries (minimum of 10 per week) about possible job openings with potential employers.

**Section 55-50-201 Eligibility Requirements for Child Care Services (d) Child care providers shall meet the following conditions in order that child care payments maybe authorized:**

- (a) For licensed center based, group home, and family child care providers
- (b) For licensed-exempt family home providers, including in-home providers
- (f) All providers subjected to Sex Offenders Registry and Notification Act (SORNA)
- (g) requirement of a telephone land line

Copies of the proposed amended Child Care and Development Fund Rules and Regulations maybe obtained from the Child Care and Development Fund Office, Building 1347, Ascension Ct. Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950. Comments regarding the proposed updates/changes to the CCDF Rules and Regulations should be addressed to Melvin L.O. Faisao, DCCA Secretary and forwarded to the above address. Comments will be accepted until May 20, 2011.

Approved for Distribution:

/s/ Melvin L.O. Faisao

April 12, 2011



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# Car chase video of suspected big-time ‘ice’ dealer showed

»Detective tells scary experience during car chase

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Law enforcers managed to videotape part of the car chase involving suspected big-time “ice” supplier Qun Yu that began in Gualo Rai and ended in Chalan Kiya.

A detective yesterday also testified he was scared when Yu suddenly backed out his vehicle and engaged them in a hot pursuit in the afternoon of Aug. 4, 2010.

In yesterday’s continuation of the ongoing jury trial of Yu in Superior Court, assis-

tant attorney generals Russell Lorfing and Tiberius Mocanu played in court the videotaped portion of the car chase as Detective Jeffrey Olopai took the witness stand.

The footage showed a white Toyota Land Cruiser allegedly driven by Yu leaving an area in

Gualo Rai and speeding north along Middle Road.

Unmarked vehicles used by members of the CNMI Drug Task Force and Department of Public Safety’s Criminal Investigation Bureau in the operation followed the Land Cruiser that proceeded to the Flametree Terrace Apartment in Capital Hill.

The footage showed that the Land Cruiser went back to Middle Road and continued south followed by the same unmarked vehicles.

Detective Olopai said during that pursuit he was assigned to oversee the operation against Yu and his girlfriend, Coco (Zhang Ling).

The Land Cruiser was allegedly speeding recklessly at over 60 to 70 miles per hour.

Olopai said the Land Cruiser was trying to avoid them and one time nearly collided with another vehicle as it encroached the opposite lane.

cles joined in the chase starting in Garapan.

Castro said that, on Aug. 3, 2010, he was part of a surveillance team when a “cooperating defendant” purchased \$200 worth of “ice” from Yu at a poker establishment in Garapan.

Castro said that on the following day, Aug. 4, members of the CNMI Drug Task Force used the same “cooperating defendant” to buy \$300 worth of “ice” from Yu.

Castro said they handed only \$295 worth of marked money to the “cooperating defendant” since that’s the only money they had at the time.

## Life Scout completes rehabilitation of Unai Dangkulu

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A Life Scout recently completed the rehabilitation of a historical site as part of an Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project.

Seventeen-year-old Don Marshall Davis Cabrera of CNMI Boy Scouts of America Troop 913 accomplished the rehabilitation of Unai Dangkulu, a historical site adjacent to the Coral Ocean Point golf course.

“We bush cut the grass, [chopped] any unnecessary trees, trimmed tree branches, cleared the top of the [bunk]/pillbox of grass and overgrowth, cleared the steps down to the beach, and cleaned up all the debris such as cut grass,” Cabrera said in an email response to *Saipan Tribune*.



Seventeen-year-old Don Marshall Davis Cabrera shows the Unai Dangkulu historical site which he rehabilitated from April 16 to 19 as part of his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project.

According to Cabrera, it took three days—from April 16 to 19—to finish the project.

The completion of the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project is part of the process to attain Eagle Scout, the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouting program of Boy Scouts of America.

The most challenging part of the project was bush cutting and raking the grass while the most memorable was having friends help in the project, said Cabrera.

Cabrera said Troop 913 led

by Scoutmaster Valrick Welch, CNMI Boy Scouts island director Cal Reyes, and public high school students provided him assistance for the project.

“Now that it’s over, it looks great,” added Cabrera.

Cabrera said he will assist other Life Scouts in accomplishing their respective projects.


In an interview, the island director said Cabrera had to

through different enforcement agencies to secure all permits needed to carry out the project.

“Don successfully completed a very dignified project since it involved the restoration of a historical site,” said Reyes.

“He served not only as a good example for his fellow scouts in Troop 913 to preserve and restore historical sites but also to the entire community.”

Reyes expressed his appreciation to Joe Kaipat of the Division of Environmental Quality in providing water, trash bags and gloves to the volunteers; Ron Rogers of Historic Preservation Office; Coastal Resources Management; and CNMI Boy Scouts Advancement and Recognition Committee chair William Hunter for their help during the project.




Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Coastal Resources Management

Caller Box 10007, Springs Plaza, Middle Road, Saipan, MP 96950

Website: [www.crm.gov.mp](http://www.crm.gov.mp)

Tel. (670) 664-8300 • Fax (670) 664-8315



NOTICE OF APPLICATION

April 25, 2011

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. ASIA MARINE SPORTS	03/10/2011 SPIm-2011-X-020	WAKEBOARD OPERATION	FISHING BASE	LAGOON & REEF APC	UNDER REVIEW*
2. D.T.C. SAIPAN	04/12/2011 SSm-2011-X-025	FILMING BEACH SITE	ALL SHORELINE &	SAIPAN SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(03/30/2011)*
3. ICHIBAN MARINE SPORTS	04/18/2011 SLRm-2011-X-026	WAKEBOARD OPERATION	HABA ADAI BEACH HOTEL	LAGOON & REEF APC	UNDER REVIEW*
4. MAC'S MARINE	04/14/2011 SLRm-2011-X-027	AQUA WALKER	FISHING BASE	LAGOON & REEF APC	UNDER REVIEW*

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations, which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (\*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the CRM Regulations.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom yesterday late afternoon, attorney Stephen Woodruff, counsel for Yu, was cross-examining Olopai.

The second cooperating defendant also took the witness stand yesterday.

Another detective—Steven Castro—also testified yesterday that he as well as his fellow officers were afraid that they would get hurt when Yu’s Toyota Land Cruiser backed out, crashing behind the government’s car occupied by some detectives.

Castro said first he thought that Yu would cooperate with them when they tried to arrest him near a store in Gualo Rai in the afternoon of Aug. 4, 2010.

The detective said after crashing the government vehicle, the Land Cruiser sped north, prompting them to chase the suspect in four separate vehicles.

Castro said during the chase, the Land Cruiser almost flipped by the U.S. Army Reserve in Puerto Rico then continued to Capital Hill, turned south, until it crashed near a private residence in Chalan Kiya.

He said marked police vehi-

“We saw money flying out from the Land Cruiser,” the detective said.

Castro said they relayed to other surveillance team to stop and procure the money and evidence thrown outside.

Castro said it was only the cooperating defendant and Coco who were left behind the Land Cruiser after it crashed in Chalan Kiya as Yun fled to the jungle.

Woodruff during cross-examination pointed out that “ice” or crystal methamphetamine were never mentioned during the taped conversation.

Castro replied “yes.”

Castro also agreed with Woodruff that he did not see Yu in the Land Cruiser.

The detective, however, during re-direct examination by Mocanu said Yu and Coco are drugs associates and that “ice” or crystal methamphetamine was never mentioned in the conversation because drug suppliers never used the words to avoid detection.

Castro said the \$3 that was mentioned in the conversation actually means \$300.



# NMHC receives \$150K federal grant

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. will be able to rehabilitate and resell more foreclosed properties on Saipan, thanks to the \$150,001 grant it received

through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program 3 or NSP3.

Jesse Palacios, Mortgage and Credit Division manager, said the agency was given the grant last March 14.

“[T]his grant money will be used to rehabilitate 4 units and

once they have been fixed up and is up to code, we will make these units available for low income families to purchase,” Palacios told *Saipan Tribune*.

NSP is a funding program under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Develop-

ment that provides emergency assistance to state and local governments to acquire and re-develop foreclosed properties that might otherwise become sources of abandonment and blight within the community.

The term NSP3 references to the funds authorized under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 which provides a third round of neighborhood stabilization grants to all states and select governments on a formula basis.

Palacios said that the four units to be rehabilitated are all located in Kagman “since we have identified Kagman as the area of greatest need and the greatest number of foreclosures.”

“We still need to do environmental assessments before we can even touch the grant money,” he said.

Palacios said they would

need permits from various government agencies before issuing the request for proposal for the rehabilitation project.

“Probably by the end of the year we will have the four units available for low-income families,” he added.

Palacios said that the interest rates for the rehabilitated units are pegged between 2 to 5 percent, depending on household income. He described it as “very affordable.”

According to Palacios, the NSP is more or less a “partnership deal” between NMHC and HUD since the two agencies will receive a share from the selling price of the rehabilitated properties.

The agencies’ share, Palacios noted, depends on the rehabilitation cost and the selling price of the properties.

He said that the NMHC’s share goes to a form of revolving account which can be used to fund rehabilitation and other housing projects.

Palacios disclosed that the NMHC has availed of two out of three rounds of NSP funding that had been made available. The last one, NSP1, was in March 2009 which amounted to \$364,162.

NSP1 grant, Palacios said, made possible the rehabilitation of six foreclosed properties in Kagman and 1 in Dandan in December 2010.

According to Palacios, five of the seven units have already been sold for a price range between \$60,000 to \$70,000.

The two unsold units, which are both in Kagman, are two- and three-bedroom units that are priced between \$66,000 and \$72,000.

“With the NSP1 units, they are pretty much ready to move in. They just need to hook up the power and water,” added Palacios.

For information about the NSP1 units or the program, call Palacios at 234-6866 or 9447 or email at [jspalacios@nmhc.gov.mp](mailto:jspalacios@nmhc.gov.mp).

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Theater in the Round to be used in *The Three Musketeers*

The traditional idea of a stage in front and the audience lined up behind is being abandoned in the upcoming Friends of he Art’s production of *The Three Musketeers*. FOA will be using the “Theater in the Round” method of performance for this play, a method originating in ancient Greece and gaining popularity again in the 1940s. Theater in the Round is a performance method in which the stage is center, and the audience sits in a circle, a round, the stage. This type of performance tends to draw in audience members, as well as providing all attending with a unique and revolving view of the play, and is commonly used in small performances and street theater.

FOA, with the help of Willis Hall, is bringing to Saipan a comedic and highly amusing version of *The Three Musketeers* this coming weekend on April 29, 30, and May 1, presented

in Theater in the Round. Both the play and the presentation style promise to make this FOA performance unique and highly entertaining. In Willis Hall’s *The Three Musketeers*, actors will mingle with audience, providing laughter and enjoyment for all ages. This play will be performed at the Multi-Purpose Center, and is the final performance for those carrying a FOA season ticket. For more information on performance times and prices, contact Frank Gibson at [fgibson@yahoo.com](mailto:fgibson@yahoo.com). (FOA)

### Ladder Beach red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged Ladder Beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI

Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 12 locations on Saipan this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

### Chamorro Carolinian language, heritage studies in John Gonzales Live

This week’s topic in *John Gonzales Live* will be in the upcoming PSS Chamorro Carolinian Languages & Heritage Studies Month.

Patricia Peter Kapileo, PSS Refaluwasch Language & Heritage Studies Program coordinator, and Patricia Peter Kapileo, PSS Refaluwasch Language & Heritage Studies Program coordinator, will serve as guests.



*John Gonzales Live* airs Wednesday and rebroadcasts on Sunday, May 1, and Monday, May 2, all from 7pm to 8pm on KSPN Channel 2. (PR)



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If your company wants to participate in our program, please contact Celia Pillarina at 235-2440 ext. 171 or e-mail [celia\\_pillarina@saipantribune.com](mailto:celia_pillarina@saipantribune.com)



United States  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
COUNCIL on DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities is hereby gives notice that it will hold its second (2nd) Quarterly Meeting on Friday, April 29, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Pacific Islands Club (P.I.C.), Charley’s Cabaret Room, San Antonio, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

a. Welcome and Introduction  
b. Call to Order  
c. Roll Call  
d. Adoption of Agenda  
e. Adoption of January 31, 2011 Meeting Minutes

II. ACTION ITEMS

a) Approval of the Call-A-Ride Operation and Management Manual  
b) Renewal of Trankilu Alternative Financing Loan Program MOU between CDD and CAMI

III. REPORTS

a) Chairman  
b) Executive Director  
c) Fiscal Committee Chair  
d) State Plan Committee Chair

IV. NEW BUSINESS

a) AT Center renovation update  
b) Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)  
c) Disaster Preparedness – Governor’s Task Force on Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities  
d) CNMI Resource Guide update  
e) House Bill 17-84  
f) Developmental Disabilities now includes Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

V. OLD BUSINESS

a) Update on House Bill 17-43  
b) Update on House Bill 17-36  
c) Commonwealth Election Enhancement Project update

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

VIII. NEXT MEETING – July 2011

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

In accordance to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council three (3) days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Thomas J. Camacho  
Chairman

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A. (Administrative)



# CUC: 9 areas positive for coliform in tap water

Tests conducted by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. detected the presence of coliform bacteria in tap water samples collected from nine areas on Saipan.

Affected areas are portions of Anonas Drive in Kagman 1, Kagman Road near Makupa Place, Chalan Santa Lourdes in As Teo, portions of Sadog Tasi, along Puerto Rico Drive, Upper MIHA Housing, portions of Gualo Rai, Chalan Kiya, and Lower Dandan.

"Our water system recently violated a drinking water stan-

dard. Even though this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct the situation," said CUC in a statement.

CUC said it took 119 samples for coliform bacteria during March 2011 and 10.08 percent of those samples showed the presence of coliform bacteria, more than double the 5 percent allowable.

The utilities firm said people with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some

elderly may be at increased risk from the presence of coliform in their tap water.

CUC said the presence of coliform is a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution system.

The utilities firm said leaks were detected and repaired in the following areas: Chanda Lane in Kagman 1, Kagman Road near Makupa Place, Chalan Santa Lourdes near Donni Springs, and at Natibu and Independence in Lower Dandan.

Operators also modified the distribution system as they repaired a well supplying Gualo Rai. Water operators increased treatment and additional samples collected in the affected areas on April 5 and April 18 were free of coliform bacteria showing that this problem has been resolved.

For more information, contact Heidi Yelin at 322-5140 or Mariano Iglecias at 322-5030 or 322-5031 or PO Box 501220 Saipan, MP 96950. *(Saipan Tribune)*

## Post Office to install officer in charge Friday

The Saipan Post Office will install its officer in charge during a private program set on Friday, April 29, 10am at its office in Chalan Kanoa.

Jacqueline Camacho will be installed as the officer in charge, replacing Hector Medina, who is retiring as Saipan Postmaster on the same day.

Camacho was previously a sales and services associate at the Saipan Post Office.

Medina retires after a 39-year postal career. He had served as Saipan Postmaster since May 2008. Medina began his postal career in 1973 at the Hagatna Station in Guam. He served as a mail carrier for 17 years, and then assumed a variety of supervisory positions within the Guam Post Office over the years. Medina was born in Puerto Rico, raised in Indiana, and settled in Guam after serving in the U.S. Navy.

The brief installation program for Camacho will be conducted by Leo Tudela, the Postal Service's director of Asia Pacific Relations. *(PR)*

## Judiciary has full slate as Law Week begins

The CNMI Judiciary will be celebrating Law Week—set from the last week of April to the first week of May—with a slew of activities and they are the following:

### Law Week Essay and Poster Contest

This year's Law Week events begin with the First Annual Law Week Essay and Poster Contest. Students in grades 7 and 8 from public and private schools are invited to write an essay on this year's theme: The Legacy of John Adams, from Boston to Guantanamo. Students in grades 5 and 6 are invited to create a poster that celebrates this year's theme. All essays and posters are due on Tuesday, April 26, 2011. Winners will be announced on Thursday, May 12, 2011, at 11am in the Supreme Court courtroom. Cash and other prizes will be awarded to the winners. Along with the judiciary, the contest is being co-sponsored by the Judicial Council, the Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society, the CNMI Bar Association, and the Commissioner of the Public School System.

### Attorney Admissions Ceremony

On Wednesday, April 27, Law Week celebrations continue with the admission of four new attorneys to the practice of law. The attorney Admissions Ceremony will take place at 11am in the Supreme Court courtroom and is open to the public. The ceremony will be a special court session and will recognize the achievements and sacrifices of the four individuals who have reached an important milestone in their professional careers.

### Proclamation Signing

In honor of Law Week 2011, a public signing of the proclamation will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2011, at 8:30am in the Supreme Court courtroom. A proclamation signing allows key Law Week planners and partners to build awareness among the community. Each year, the judiciary strives to involve the public in the recognition of our legal system.

### The Attorney Generals' Cup Speech Competition

Immediately following the proclamation signing, eight students from throughout the Commonwealth will compete in the 27th Annual Attorney Generals' Cup Speech competition. These eight outstanding students will give speeches on this year's issue: With the signing of the Covenant with the United States, the People of the CNMI decided to become a commonwealth instead of an independent country. With that decision, the United States gained control over some decision-making powers that normally would exist if the CNMI had been independent. Should the CNMI consider becoming an independent country or remain a commonwealth of the United States?

### Judiciary Open House

Students have been invited to tour the courthouse and learn about the functions of each office and our judicial system.

### Judicial History Book Launch

The Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society is pleased to announce the official public release of The Northern Mariana Islands Judiciary: A Historical Overview. The history book launch will take place on May 12, at 11am in the Supreme Court courtroom.

People of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands benefit from a judiciary that is an independent and co-equal branch of government. This achievement did not develop overnight, but instead emerged after over five centuries of changing legal structures. Inhabitants of the Mariana Islands first lived under legal systems installed by Spain, Germany, and then Japan. Following World War II, laws were administered by the United States Naval Military Government and then as part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. This book chronicles these diverse legal systems and also examines the current Commonwealth judiciary. This unique focus affords readers a rarely-seen perspective of the court system in the Marianas, and an understanding of the efforts taken to ensure that the Commonwealth is a society governed by the rule of law.

This history book is made possible by the collective efforts of the CNMI judiciary and its staff, the Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society, and with grant funding assistance provided by the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities. Special thanks also go to the contributing authors: Arin Greenwood, Dirk H.R. Spennemann, Dirk Anthony Ballendorf, Dan MacMeekin, former Judge Timothy H. Bellas, retired Chief Justice Jose S. Dela Cruz, Mia Giacomazzi, and Steven Gardiner.

### We the People National Competition

Twenty-two students from Saipan Southern High School earned the honor of representing the CNMI to compete in the We the People National Competition, which will be held in Washington, D.C. on April 30-May 5. The judiciary's Associate Justice John A. Manglona and Law Clerk Steve Gardiner will accompany the team as their official coaches. Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona also serves as a coach. The competition, which is federally funded and coordinated by the Public School System, promotes civic competence and responsibility among the nation's students.

### National High School Mock Trial Championship

The 28th Annual National High School Mock Trial Championship competition will be held in Phoenix, Arizona on May 5-7, 2011. Marianas Baptist Academy will represent the CNMI. The Judiciary's Jennifer Dockter, Clerk of the Supreme Court, is their Attorney-Coach.

Law Week celebrations are made possible by the Commonwealth Judiciary, the Northern Marianas Bar Association, the Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society, the Office of the Attorney General, the Public School System, and the NMI Council for the Humanities. *(PR)*

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 27, 1999

### Maintain teacher scholarships, says educator

The teacher scholarship program has been spared from the cap imposed on financial aid for students pursuing post-secondary education and an educator believes that this type of investment is needed to develop local teachers. "If the CNMI wants to have teachers then they have to leave the scholarship in tact," said Joan Kani of the Teacher's Academy at Marianas High School. The last survey conducted in the Public School System has counted that 60 percent of its total number of teachers are from the US mainland. This off-island recruitment is costing PSS over half a million each year.

### CPA approves release of sewerline money

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board has approved the release of \$350,000 as payment for the additional claim made by the contractor of the controversial sewer line project for its immediate resumption of work. Pacific Drilling Ltd. is set to resume work on the \$4.7 million sewer line project which has suffered so much delay since it was suspended by the ports authority in May 1998 due to lack of funds. Completion of the project was assured after CPA and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. have recently agreed to co-share in paying for the cost of the total additional claim of Pacific Drilling amounting to \$750,000.

April 27, 2000

### New law bans use of scuba tank for fishing

Fishing on Rota reefs using scuba tank and other related devices is now prohibited in the island municipality and violators will face jail sentence of up to three months and/or a fine of not more than \$500. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday signed into law a local bill sponsored by Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig and passed by the Rota legislative delegation in what may be the first effort by the Commonwealth to outlaw such fishing practices. He approved the legislation to protect marine resources on the island, but prodded Rota lawmakers to amend it in order to clarify the scope of "other related devices" as well as the "coastal waters of the municipality."

### Tanapag environmental survey will pinpoint contaminated sites

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency yesterday assured Tanapag residents that a comprehensive analysis on polychlorinated biphenyl contamination in the village will be conducted to determine the chemical's potential risks to public health and the environment. As part of its effort to assist EPA, the Division of Environmental Quality has begun conducting an environmental survey last week in Tanapag to gather information that will help trace the presence of chemical contaminants, including PCBs. According to Norman Lovelace, EPA manager for Pacific Insular Affairs, the investigation will be used to locate areas in the village which may need additional cleanup by the Army Corps, provide information about the safety of consuming certain crops grown in and around the village.

April 27, 2001

### Lottery operators owe CNMI govt

Government coffers stand to collect an extra \$37,729 from lottery operators because two of the companies either unconsciously understated their returns or remitted late their quarterly license fees during the third quarter of fiscal year 1999. The findings were presented in a April 25, 2001 report submitted by the Office of the Public Auditor to Department of Finance Secretary Lucy Nielsen. OPA's report said an operator of one of the on-line games computed government revenues using a 26.5 percent compensation rate instead of the required minimum 35 percent rate. Another operator, on the other hand, simply failed to remit quarterly license fees on the scheduled date, resulting in the government getting lower revenues during the quarter under audit.

### US-AGO's help sought for NMI's stateless kids

The possibility that about 350 stateless children in the Commonwealth will be granted citizenship runs high as matters were elevated to the United States Department of Justice. After the recently concluded meeting with Intergovernmental Affairs Office representative Timothy Quinn, House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial sought the assistance of US Attorney General John D. Ashcroft on the said matter. The House speaker urged the justice official to take the immigration and citizenship issue of more than 350 Northern Marianas residents into serious consideration. "We need your assistance to resolve the important immigration and citizenship issue affecting roughly 300 residents in the CNMI," said Mr. Fitial in a letter to the attorney general.

## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Happy birthday to our princess Jerishna P. DiGuerrero. She is turning 7 today, April 27. Greetings coming from Mommy, Daddy, and Kaelib.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Belated 10th birthday to our beautiful young lady, Veronica Joy, who celebrated her special day last April 25. No words can express how much you've been a blessing to us and we ask God to bless you even more! Always believe in yourself and reach for the stars! We love you always! Greetings from Dad Jack, Mom Bekke, V.J., Zachary, Zaria, and all your family.



# AB Road magazine travels to Northern Marianas

Korea's most popular travel magazine, *AB Road*, traveled this week to the Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to explore the activities and relaxation offered in this beach resort destination.

Two editors and two photographers arrived on Saipan last April 25 for a four-day visit aimed at featuring the Northern Mariana Islands as an exotic tropical travel destination with two differently themed travels: 1) activities and 2) relaxation and natural beauty.

While on Saipan the "activities" team will stay at Pacific Islands Club Saipan and Fi-

esta Resort & Spa and will cover a Marianas Trekking bike tour, jet skiing, bottom fishing, parasailing, a submarine tour, downtown Garapan night life, and the Saipan Sandcastle cocktail show.

The "relax" team will stay at Aqua Resort Club Saipan and feature snorkeling at Managaha Island, Hanamitsu Spa, a sunset dinner cruise on the Stars & Stripes, Hyatt Regency Saipan's I Sagua Spa, an island tour and shopping at DFS Galleria, Joeten Hafa Adai Shopping Center, Star Stand Plaza, and other outlets.

On Tinian, the "activities" team will explore the island both above and below water with an ATV tour and scuba diving.

On Rota, the "relax" team will stay at Rota Resort & Spa and take an island tour and indulge in the resort's Nature Spa.

"The primary market of Korea continues to be of importance to Northern Marianas tourism, so we welcome this opportunity for coverage," said Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "*AB Road* is yet another avenue we are taking advantage

of to maximize our very limited promotional budget."

The MVA is supporting the media FAM tour with a tour guide, ground transportation, and assistance with permitting. A number of restaurants are also hosting the media group, including Kinpachi Restaurant, JC Café, Hard Rock Café, Capricciosa, and Moby Dick.

*AB Road* circulates 50,000 copies a month. The estimated ad exposure of the Northern Marianas feature is over \$60,000. The media group returns to Korea on April 28. (MVA)

## WIA automates Rota Office

The Workforce Investment Agency has successfully automated its office on Rota, allowing WIA personnel on the island to remotely access, provide registrant/participant services while entering real time information to WIA's Pacific Workforce Client Tracking server located on Saipan.

This is a huge accomplishment for the CNMI as a grantee of WIA funds where registrant/participant services can be provided, data retrieved and entered on a real time basis. WIA's next automation project is for its Tinian Office.

For many years, client tracking information for Rota was entered by the Saipan WIA Office but this no longer

will be the case since WIA accomplished automation of its client tracking system for Rota Office in March 2011.

This could not have been achieved without the technical assistance through strong collaboration and partnership with the Guam Department of Labor and strongly supported by the cognizant agency, USDOL Employment and Training Administration, San Francisco Region 6 Office.

Automation of the Pacific Workforce Client Tracking System provides program reporting standardization (WIASRD) submitted on a quarterly basis to the grantor agency, USDOL ETA Region 6 San Francisco Office. (PR)

## Ayuda Foundation seeks grant for island girl power program

The Ayuda Foundation announces that an application for federal funding was submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for \$644,000 to help expand services provided by Ayuda's Island Girl Power (IGP) Program.

The IGP Program was developed in 2002 to help address high rates of teen pregnancy, suicide, and use of illegal substances, by offering a safe outlet for girls between the ages of 7 and 14. Girls enrolled in the IGP Program have access to educational resources, volunteer tutors, and community service projects that help them to engage in positive and meaningful activities.

IGP Program Director, Mrs. Juanita Blaz, said that that the application was a result of a collaborative effort among IGP Program volunteers, non-profit network

groups, and Ayuda's new Community Development and Project Support team.

"This is a positive step forward in helping our young women deal with very serious issues, which undoubtedly influence how they develop as individuals and as members of our community," she said.

"The Ayuda Foundation has embarked on a new path that will allow us to expand our ability to reach those who need our help. This includes building the appropriate capacity and acquiring the needed resources to address the social, education, and medical challenges confronting our community," concluded Carlotta Leon Guerrero, executive director of the Ayuda Foundation.

For additional information, contact Carlotta Leon Guerrero at 473-3003. (PR)



Guam Department of Labor systems administrator Jaime Rodriguez through technological remote access capabilities successfully automated WIA's client tracking system on Rota. He is seen here with Workforce Investment Agency Rota representative Gavin Mendiola, left.

## Energy Star BOGO promotion on CFLs, Elastomeric Roof Coating set

The Department of Public Works' Energy Division, in coordination with Ace Hardware Store in Susupe and YCO Do-It-Best Hardware in Chalan Kiya, will be promoting the buy one, get one free "BOGO" Energy Star® compact fluorescent light (CFL) and Energy Star® Elastomeric Roof Coating.

The promotions are set on May 6 from 9am to 3:30pm at the YCO Do-It-Best Hardware in Chalan Kiya and on May 7 from 8am to 12pm at the Ace Hardware Store in Susupe. This promotion is open to residential home

owners only.

The BOGO is buy one (1) Energy Star® Compact Fluorescent Light bulb (CFL) and get one free with a limit of five (5) CFL purchases per family.

In addition, the Energy Star® Elastomeric Roof Coating BOGO is buy one (1) Primer Kool Seal and get one (1) Elastomeric Roof Coating Free with a limit of two purchases per family. Items are limited so it will be based on first come, first served basis.

Energy Director Thelma Inos encourages everyone in making your

home more energy efficient with ENERGY STAR® products that can help to reduce high energy bills, improve comfort and help to protect the environment.

For questions or information regarding this promotion you may contact the Energy Division at telephone nos. 664-4480/1.

This project funding is made possible by grants from the U.S. Department of Energy, State Energy Program through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. (PR)

## SHIPPING SCHEDULE



Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SEMAKAU	015E	4/16 Sat	4/14 Thu	4/14 Thu	4/12 Tue	4/9 Sat	4/22 Fri	4/18 Mon	4/17 Sun	4/10 Sun	4/10 Sun	4/18 Mon	4/22 Fri	4/24 Sun	4/26 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	054E	4/23 Sat	4/21 Thu	4/21 Thu	4/19 Tue	4/16 Sat	4/29 Fri	4/25 Mon	4/24 Sun	4/17 Sun	4/17 Sun	4/25 Mon	4/29 Fri	5/1 Sun	5/3 Tue
MELL SARACA	045E	4/30 Sat	4/28 Thu	4/28 Thu	4/26 Tue	4/23 Sat	5/6 Fri	5/2 Mon	5/1 Sun	4/24 Sun	4/24 Sun	5/2 Mon	5/6 Fri	5/8 Sun	5/10 Tue
MELL SEMAKAU	016E	5/7 Sat	5/5 Thu	5/5 Thu	5/3 Tue	4/30 Sat	5/13 Fri	5/9 Mon	5/8 Sun	5/1 Sun	5/1 Sun	5/9 Mon	5/13 Fri	5/15 Sun	5/17 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	055E	5/14 Sat	5/12 Thu	5/12 Thu	5/10 Tue	5/7 Sat	5/20 Fri	5/16 Mon	5/15 Sun	5/8 Sun	5/8 Sun	5/16 Mon	5/20 Fri	5/22 Sun	5/24 Tue
MELL SARACA	046E	5/21 Sat	5/19 Thu	5/19 Thu	5/17 Tue	5/14 Sat	5/27 Fri	5/23 Mon	5/22 Sun	5/15 Sun	5/15 Sun	5/23 Mon	5/27 Fri	5/29 Sun	5/31 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SEMAKAU	015E	4/30 Sat	5/1 Sun	5/1 Sun	5/5 Thu	5/6 Fri	5/8 Sun	SKIP	5/13 Fri	5/14 Sat	5/19 Thu	6/7 Tue	5/22 Sun	5/18 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	054E	5/7 Sat	5/8 Sun	5/8 Sun	SKIP	5/11 Wed	5/13 Fri	5/15 Sun	SKIP	5/20 Fri	5/21 Sat	5/26 Thu	6/14 Tue	5/25 Wed
MELL SARACA	045E	5/14 Sat	5/15 Sun	5/15 Sun	5/17 Tue	5/18 Wed	5/20 Fri	5/22 Sun	SKIP	5/27 Fri	5/28 Sat	6/2 Thu	6/21 Tue	6/1 Wed
MELL SEMAKAU	016E	5/21 Sat	5/22 Sun	5/22 Sun	SKIP	5/25 Wed	5/27 Fri	5/29 Sun	SKIP	6/3 Fri	6/4 Sat	6/9 Thu	6/28 Tue	6/12 Sun
MELL SENTOSA	055E	5/28 Sat	5/29 Sun	5/29 Sun	6/1 Wed	6/1 Wed	6/3 Fri	6/5 Sun	SKIP	6/10 Fri	6/11 Sat	6/16 Thu	7/5 Tue	6/19 Sun
MELL SARACA	046E	6/4 Sat	6/5 Sun	6/5 Sun	SKIP	6/8 Wed	6/10 Fri	6/12 Sun	SKIP	6/17 Fri	6/18 Sat	6/23 Thu	7/12 Tue	6/26 Sun

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### Lost in Libya

What's happening in Libya? When we last checked in, President Obama had said that the United States would participate in the U.N.-sponsored no-fly zone but that this was not—repeat not—a war to oust Moammar Gadhafi. Rather, the narrow purpose of the operation was to avert humanitarian disaster. He acknowledged that he would like to see Gadhafi go, but said that under no circumstances would ground troops be sent in to make that happen. Instead, the United States would use nonmilitary means to hasten the strongman's departure. The president tied it all up in a neat package and made it sound promising and uplifting, like a victory for morality, for democracy, for innocent civilians at risk and for the whole idea of limited humanitarian intervention.

But now, several weeks later, that neat package is coming undone. The war rages on. The rebels, disorganized and under-equipped, are neither winning nor losing; Gadhafi is neither firmly entrenched nor on his way out, as far as anyone knows. NATO, its members still squabbling among themselves, has no formal mandate to oust the Libyan leader but is unwilling to walk away either. Hundreds have died, while the diplomatic and economic squeeze has so far proved unsuccessful.

In this frustrating situation, unsurprisingly, there's a natural tendency toward "mission creep," as the U.S. and other NATO nations try to figure out how to break the stalemate. Britain, France and Italy say they will send military advisers to help the rebels (in a move that can't help but remind Americans of the gradual start of the Vietnam War). On Thursday, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said that Obama had authorized the deployment of armed Predator drones to target Gadhafi's forces, deepening the United States' role in a conflict that increasingly seems to be about more than protecting civilians.

What a mess. And not a totally unfamiliar one. Proponents of stronger action against Gadhafi say the problem is that the United States is not fully committed, that it is half-in and half-out, unwilling to risk dollars or lives to achieve its aims. There's some truth to that analysis. As Richard N. Haass, the president of the Council on Foreign Relations (and not a supporter of stronger action), has noted, there's a gap between the ambitious goal of ousting Gadhafi and the tremendous limits the United States has put on the means.

For our part, we'd rather see the ambitions narrowed than the means expanded. We don't see the upside in getting more deeply involved in a third distant war on behalf of rebels we know little about, even against the repugnant Gadhafi government. The United States not only doesn't have any vital national security interests at stake, but it already has 100,000 troops on the ground in Afghanistan, 50,000 in Iraq and 18,000 more assisting Japan after the earthquake and tsunami. The United States and the international community have an important role to play in protecting populations from humanitarian crisis or genocide, but no one has proved that Libya is an especially compelling example of either, distinguishable from all the other tragic cases of brutality and war around the world. If there was intelligence evidence of the "violence on a horrific scale" that Obama warned of, what was it? The United States can't possibly fight all the dictators who raise weapons against their own people, no matter how much it might wish to.

Where do we go from here? Certainly the United States should continue its diplomatic efforts, economic sanctions and nonlethal aid; by all means, ratchet up the pressure on Gadhafi. But whether those tactics will succeed in forcing him out is unclear. Maybe he'll decide to cut his losses and conclude that resettling in some out-of-the-way capital and living off whatever he can salvage of his stolen millions is a better option than going down with the ship.

See LOST on Next Page

If I find out  
who's causing  
sky-high  
gas  
prices...I'm gonna  
point fingers...

Name names...

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Pretty  
please  
with a  
Cherry  
on top  
to stop!

## In Libya, "mission creep" sets in

In the think-tank argot popular in foreign policy circles, "mission creep" is an idiom for one of the garden-variety mistakes most people were warned against at their mother's knee. Think "don't throw good money after bad" and you've pretty well got the essence of the thing.

Predictably, though, mission creep is what's occurring in Libya. Each halting step the United States and its NATO allies take deeper into a morass none of them really understands makes it more likely that this ill-considered intervention will end in precisely the event it set out to prevent: Moammar Gadhafi's massacre of his political opponents.

That's because even the most enthusiastic of the strongman's foreign antagonists, France, is unwilling to commit troops to dislodge him from power. Without foreign troops it seems less and less likely that an untrained, sketchily equipped, ill-organized and divided insurgency will overthrow Gadhafi, who has all the resolve of a man with nowhere else to go and the support of his tribal allies and the considerable number of Libyans who somehow have benefited from his misrule.

Speaking to U.S. troops in Baghdad this week, Adm. Michael G. Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, admitted that the Libyan civil war — which is what the uprising has become — is "certainly moving toward stalemate." Moreover, the half steps the allies announced this week are unlikely to break the deadlock on the ground. France, Britain and Italy will send a handful of "military advisers" to assist the rebels, while the United States will commit missile-armed Predator drones to the air campaign and \$25 million in non-lethal aid.

For once, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov had matters about right Thursday when he said, "We consider these moves extremely risky. ... There've been cases in history when it all started with sending in military advisors, and then it dragged out for years and resulted in hundreds and thousands dead on both sides."

Moreover, as security analyst Anthony H. Cordesman pointed out this week, the "announcement that British and French military advisors are going to help is not going to alter that situation quickly. It will take months more—at a minimum—to properly train and equip them, and it will take a radical shift in rebel leadership to give them meaningful unity and discipline. In the interim, an enduring war of attrition will turn a minor humanitarian crisis into a major one—driven by the reality that Libya has to import over 75 percent of its food, and the Gadhafi regime was so corrupt and self-serving that

By TIM RUTTEN  
Los Angeles TimesTimothy Rutten is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at [timothy.rutten@latimes.com](mailto:timothy.rutten@latimes.com).

the CIA estimates that 30 percent of the population was unemployed and one-third was at the poverty line before the crisis began."

If, as is entirely possible, Gadhafi and his kleptocratic family dynasty somehow survive, the Libyan people will have passed through the privations of a stalemated civil war only to suffer the horrors of an unrestrained tyrant's revenge. Something similar happened after the Persian Gulf War, when the victorious allies quietly encouraged the Shiite Muslims of southern Iraq to rise against a weakened Saddam Hussein, and then stood by while he slaughtered them.

For historians, Cordesman argues, the ill-conceived Libyan intervention "is yet another demonstration that they have the world's easiest profession—all they have to do is wait for history to repeat itself. Unfortunately, there is nothing amusing about the fact that the lives and futures of some 6.6 million Libyans are at stake. The Franco-Anglo-American gamble now seems far too likely to fail at their expense."

Even the more concrete of the steps grudgingly taken by the Obama administration this week is as likely to backfire as it is to succeed. The ostensible military purpose of the Predator drones is to operate in close support of the rebel forces at low altitudes, where piloted aircraft would be at unacceptable risk from Libyan ground fire. Analysts familiar with the drones' operations in Pakistan and Yemen, however, point out that, with proper intelligence, the unmanned craft could be used to assassinate Gadhafi, his sons and lieutenants. In other words, kill the snake by cutting off its head. It may sound like a good idea, but ...

Something deep and unexpected—perilous, but promising—is welling up across the Arab world. Whatever the outcome, it must be the work of the region's people themselves. If the United States intervenes with military force and summary executions—even of loathsome lunatics like Gadhafi—the consequences could be catastrophic.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## At the brink of hopelessness

**E**ach break of dawn we struggle out of bed pondering what lies ahead amidst tidings of historic cuts being proposed by our national leaders. This as we helplessly absorb the constant increase in the price of gasoline, utilities and basic commodities while salaries remain flat or declined or zeroed out by recent job termination.

Pundits probe the meaning of President Obama's budget (basically designed for his re-election) versus Rep. Paul Ryan's conservative approach aimed at returning fiscal integrity to national expenditure.

We've started looking at the monitor even more critically to discern how a huge cut would adversely affect entitlement and other programs when D.C.'s woefully sharp machetes sever our share of handouts. This would turn the tide of responsibility inward where the greater question is: Can we find locally raised revenues to cover the impending cuts?

It's a tough issue and I'm not sure how the people at the helm plan to navigate the rough seas of revenue plummeting quicker than the sluggish institutional approach to recovery. Negative domino effects trigger other setbacks to a level beyond our comprehension. They include the following:

1). Additional recipients for entitlement programs beyond what it is today translate into several million dollars as we scramble to cover "delayed" paydays, scholarship funds, spiraling utility costs, healthcare and fuel costs, among others.

2). The obvious unemployment among recipients that translates into failure by leadership to provide these folks with meaningful employment in either sector.

At face value, this situation is difficult discerning with accuracy. We need the constructive and collective wisdom of leadership to navigate a difficult path our fragile canoe could hardly weather as we make the turn below Deep South to head up north.

The NMI needs to slam the brakes on deficit spending. If you will, deficit spending entails spending money beyond what was appropriated by law. The accrual system may provide for stealth though illegal expenditure, but it doesn't change the hue and color of deficit spending. It remains illegal. In fact,

we've been violating pertinent provisions of the constitution that calls for retirement of deficits during the second year of a sitting administration.

The ocean of difference in the discussion of cuts in the national deficit is caught in the center of an impending presidential election. It's Obama's redistributionist policy versus the GOP's call for prudence or fiscal discipline and independence. The only question is: Would the blows of machetes fall before or after the presidential election?

### Reality of land leases

Vital issues surrounding land leases, private or public, seem to have eluded our perception on its cancelling effects on the use of such land by prospective homesteaders and heirs. Specifically, what happens when land is leased between 40-55 years?

Perhaps we've shoved it aside because the conditions set forth in either case prevent the permanent loss of land from indigenous landowners. Now, let's take a critical and closer look at the effects of land leases—private or public—so we understand the reality of the issue.

The lease of public land merits critical review especially on the island of Saipan. Nimble minds must converge to trump out the future residential homestead and commercial development needs of the third senatorial district. When I left the DPL a year ago, there were 4,000 applicants for Saipan alone. Even with a moratorium on homesteads, queries for more homestead land inundated the homestead division, daily.

But what's the seemingly hidden issue when public land is leased for 40 years as constitutionally provided for? It simply means the entire contiguous lot, i.e., 5-300 hectares of public land won't be available for residential purposes. For instance, if you're one of those who isn't on the list of 4,000 applicants today, then it means you will have to wait for 40 years before the leased public land becomes available for residential purpose, if at all. Or, if you're 20 years old today then it means you would be 60-plus years old when such land may be turned into another homestead subdivision.



By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**  
*Special to the Saipan Tribune*

*Delrosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section*

In terms of private land, it means that heirs or prospective landowners would have to wait for 55 years before their land is available for their use. But then problems of familial use of such land may not come around when the next generation of heirs decides to renew the lease. Then it's their children who would have to wait for 55 years before they could have any opportunity to use the family land. In either case, the use of both public and private land is derailed for 40-55 years when it is leased for commercial purposes.

In like fashion, private land sold to another NMD transfers ownership to another person. It means that the original landowner loses his or her land upon the sale of such property. So it really doesn't make any difference whether you're an NMD or non-NMD. The sale renders you the original landowner landless or no longer the landowner after the sale. So what's the issue here? Isn't it the prevention of land losses through sale another person? It worthy thinking through such an issue if only to secure a greater understanding of the fate of land that has lost its cultural importance.

### Test on faith

Buddy Magoo was hunting near Suicide Cliff when he slipped and held on to a small fragile branch. He heard a voice asking, "Do you wish to be saved?" He quickly answered in the affirmative. Then came the deathly instruction, "So let go of the branch and I will save you!" He quickly answered, "Oh, hell no!" He turned heavenward and asked, "Excuse me, is there anybody else up there?"

## Letters to the Editor

### Act of Lunacy

Take for example: Investors and business people go to Pagan island to establish businesses such as auto repair shop, supermarkets, mom and pop stores, hotels, apartment complexes, etc.

They apply for all the necessary requirements and lease the properties. The government begins to receive good revenue while some people were happy because they were receiving good money for their leased properties. The investor community began to build up their businesses in different places.

The first thing in their mind is to collect back what they have spent. All the business people became successful after 25 years when the government decides to establish a zoning law.

Zoning law officials start going out to enforce the new regulations and begin to put the business community into a hardship situation. The business community organizes and forms a committee and elects their officers and president.

The organization requests to meet with all lawmakers and government officials. At the meeting, the president spoke and questioned the government as to why, before all the hardship began, no one thought of establishing a zoning law before they all started building up their businesses.

After all of the hardship they have been through, now the government is saying they are in violation of zoning laws. What is this, some kind of lunacy? The committee president gave an example of a police supervisor who receives a disturbance call at the office. The supervisor then radios one of his officers to respond. He tells the officer that once he arrives at the residence, he should shoot first and then ask questions later. One of the lawmakers responded by saying they were so sorry that on one thought of establishing the zoning law earlier.

The president said, "Over my dead body." And this is the end of my example story that actually happened in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Ray Agulto  
Kannat Tabla

## Saiguam?

Forget the title above. I don't mean it that way. Just for laughs. Anyway, I think it's time we review our political status with our U.S. counterparts.

The reunification process will take dollars and sense (cents) to a whole new level in terms of Saipan and Guam combined being a 51st state if that ever happens. It raises issues such as: Who benefits from all this? Are the tourists more likely to visit Guam?

Or like "Kilili" said "Are we going to be a village of Guam?" And in a funnier note of my ridiculous thinking, is the U.S. willing to add another star to their flag and for us to be able to vote for the nation's top post?

Geographically, the Marianas archipelago consists of 14 islands and includes the world famous Marianas Trench. I believe it is Guam that needs to be reunited with the CNMI and not to be taken as joined in the middle.

We can't be used as an accessory to these types of issues. Let us be careful that this is not a gimmick for Guam trying to up their status. Before Guam can place Sen. Guthertz's 168-31 bill on the ballot, Sen. Guthertz must come down and find out if the CNMI is willing.

There must be a consensus on both sides so that we know what will be on the table. It is clearly useless to place something on the ballot if no one wants it. Darn, I am thinking casino again. Again, is reunification really that necessary? In my standpoint everything seems to be in tiptop shape. Don't need to fix what isn't broken. Then again, if I would like a reunification, then I like it done geographically and not for political purposes.

Vince G. Cabrera  
Chalan Piao

## LOST

From Page 10

But even if he doesn't, it's time for the Obama administration to begin recalibrating its objectives. It's time to think about brokering a cease-fire, a negotiated solution that includes protections for the rebels and civilians. Perhaps this will mean a de facto division of the country. Perhaps some democratic reforms can be negotiated. Those steps

## Take the first step

The idea of reunification of the Mariana Islands is a good one. If presented to the people of Guam and the CNMI today, it will certainly be approved.

Why? Forget about the past, we need to look forward to the future of the new generation.

Dump the hateful feeling and experiences of the past.

We are all very self-centered to think of what happened in the past and be guided by that. Think of the economic concerns of the future with the forward thinking of globalization with the world being one citizen.

Of course, the CNMI stand to gain more by unifying with Guam and perhaps we can be the 51st state of the United States. Forget the division. An attitude of me here and you there.

How about the we and us all idea. If you love your neighbor as you love yourself, your preference will most certainly be "we, us and together. Of course our present leaders may not want this because we will have to have only one delegate to Washington, one governor, less legislators, and no congressmen.

And, most certainly the higher up positions in government will be from Guam. But, should result in less cost to govern, better economic opportunities for the future generation.

Think of the future and be not limited by the past. I like the ring of statehood. It may be a long shot but everything starts with the first step. We should take that step in light of the future not the past.

Frank Atalig  
Rota

can be taken even as the world continues its nonmilitary efforts to urge Gadhafi out.

The United States is fighting two other wars at the moment, both of which have proved long and frustrating, and there's little appetite for a third. American resources are limited, and a compelling case has not been made. Let's not get sucked in any further.






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Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

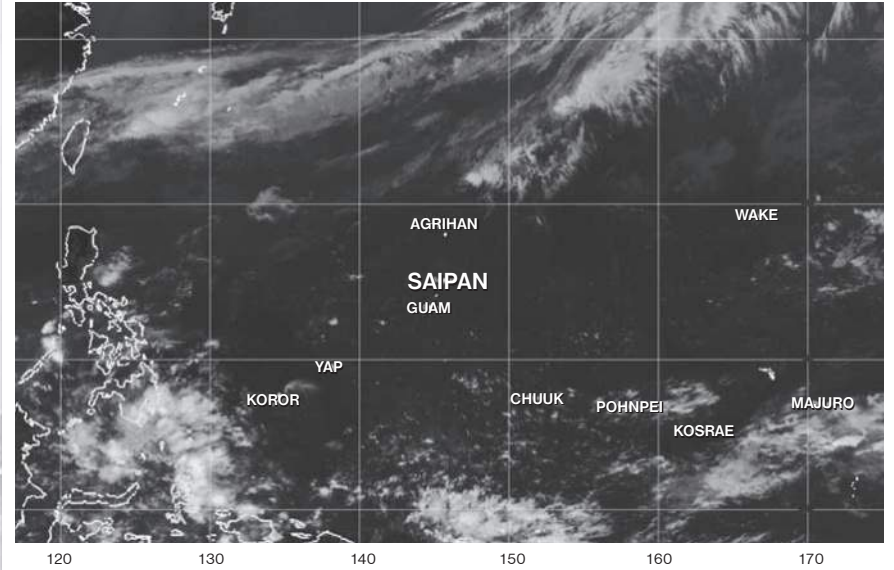
TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°

Micronesia			
Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼80	
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼78	
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼78	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼78	
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88 ▼77	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲90 ▼78	
Majuro	Showers	▲85 ▼78	

Around The Globe			
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲66 ▼60	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲73 ▼52	
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲83 ▼74	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲85 ▼74	
London	Mostly Sunny	▲64 ▼44	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲76 ▼56	
Manila	Thundershowers	▲90 ▼83	
Melbourne	Sunny	▲71 ▼52	
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼75	
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲79 ▼61	
Osaka	Showers	▲67 ▼55	
Paris	Sunny	▲68 ▼44	
Pusan	Showers	▲65 ▼50	
Rome	Showers	▲70 ▼52	
Salem	Showers	▲55 ▼44	
San Francisco	Sunny	▲63 ▼49	
Seoul	Showers	▲62 ▼45	
Tokyo	Windy	▲71 ▼63	
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲78 ▼65	

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
4:07 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:22 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
3:28 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
9:57 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2011**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough of low pressure is located near Mindanao. Convergence east of the trough is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms west of Palau between 130E to 134E from the equator to 5N. An upper-level trough stretches from near 25N180 to 12N167E to 2N151E. Upper-level divergence east of the trough is enhancing shower activity with the following weather features. A surface trough is located east of Kosrae and extends from 1N164E to 6N169E and is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within an area bounded by EQ159E to 8N170E to 2N170E to EQ165E back to EQ159E. Trade-wind convergence east of the trough is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Majuro between 1N and 7N from 170E to 180. Another surface trough stretches from 13N170E to 20N175E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough can be found within 100 miles east and west of the trough axis. A small area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms can be found near Pohnpei between 6N and 9N from 156E to 164E. A shear line stretches from 25N152E to 20N140E to 19N135E to 20N130E. Low clouds and showers can be found along and up to 100 miles north of the boundary.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	5:56 AM	6:34 PM	Today	1:48 AM	1:49 PM
Thursday	5:56 AM	6:34 PM	Thursday	2:24 AM	2:36 PM
Friday	5:55 AM	6:34 PM	Friday	3:00 AM	3:22 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:34 PM	Saturday	3:35 AM	4:08 PM
Sunday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM	Sunday	4:11 AM	4:55 PM

### GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

#### PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS  
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS  
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS  
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI  
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE  
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

#### CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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**For pictures:**

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

**For announcements:**

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 21, 2011

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM</b> C09317 4:25am 5:15am Daily C09313 7:55am 8:45am 3, 6 C09313 8:30am 9:20am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09601 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09603 3:05pm 3:55pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09605 6:20pm 7:10pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	<b>GUAM-SAIPAN</b> C09316 2:45am 3:35am Daily C09596 6:35am 7:25am 3, 6 C09596 7:00am 7:50am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09600 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09602 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b> DL287 6:00am 8:45am Daily, Departs at 6:05am effective June 1 DL285 6:40am 9:15am 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 DL297 4:35pm 7:20pm Daily	<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b> DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL286 7:45pm 12:20am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 DL288 8:05pm 12:35am+1 Daily, Arrives at 12:45am effective June 1, 2011
<b>SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)</b> OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	<b>OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN</b> OZ120 9:50am 2:20am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b> OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b> OZ607 9:10pm 2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b> OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ604 3:20pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:25am Daily via KIX	<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b> OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b> FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b> FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)</b> CA988 3:15am 6:55am 1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	<b>BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN</b> CA987 6:40pm 1:55am+1 4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b> OZ606/701 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09317/891 4:25am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL285/173 6:40am 10:15pm 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT C09313/933 7:55am 9:25pm 3 via GUM C09313/893 7:55am 11:00pm 3 via GUM-Palau C09603/933 3:05pm 9:25pm 5 via GUM C09603/893 3:05pm 11:00pm 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 ICN OZ604/715 3:20pm 11:30pm 7 C09605/933 6:20pm 9:40pm 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b> OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ716/603 12:30am 2:20pm 4, 6 via ICN DL172/286 8:05am 12:20am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 C0890/9606 10:55am 8:50pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 1:10pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 1:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:15pm 7:25am+1 6 via GUM PR110/C09596 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM C0892/9596 10:25pm 7:25am+1 3 via GUM-Palau C0892/9596 10:25pm 7:50am+1 5 via GUM-Palau C0934/9596 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 2, 7 via GUM C0934/9596 11:25pm 7:50am+1 4 via GUM C0934/9596 11:59pm 7:25am+1 3 via GUM C0934/9596 11:59pm 7:50am+1 5 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG</b> OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/909 3:05pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:35pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	<b>HONG KONG-SAIPAN</b> OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0910/9596 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China  
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE				
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	
Rota-Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily	
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	
Rota-Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily	
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	
<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>				
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily	
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily	
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily	
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily	
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily	
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily	
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily	
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily	
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily	
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily	
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily	
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily	
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily	

FLY GUAM FLIGHT SCHEDULE					
Guam-Saipan					
Flight Sector	ETD	ETA	Turn-around Time	Flytime Hrs	Dates
5K389	12:30	13:20	01:00	00:50	Mon, Thu, Sat
<b>Saipan-Guam</b>					
5K382	18:05	18:55	HK	00:50	Tue, Fri, Sun
<b>Saipan-Hong Kong</b>					
5K168	14:20	17:30	HKG	05:10	Mon, Thu, Sat
<b>Hong Kong-Saipan</b>					
5K169	10:00	17:05	01:00	05:05	Tue, Fri, Sun
<b>Mar. 28 - May 22</b>					
<b>Guam-Saipan</b>					
5K389	13:35	14:25	01:00	00:50	Mon, Thu, Sat
<b>Saipan-Guam</b>					
5K382	18:00	18:50	HKG	00:50	Tue, Fri, Sun
<b>Saipan-Hong Kong</b>					
5K168	15:25	18:35	HKG	05:10	Mon, Thu, Sat
<b>Hong Kong-Saipan</b>					
5K169	09:55	17:00	01:00	05:05	Tue, Fri, Sun



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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Business

## As economy gains strength, Fed weighs what's next

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The Federal Reserve is increasingly confident in the economy and about to end a \$600 billion program to support it. Now for the next step—figuring out how to keep inflation from taking off.

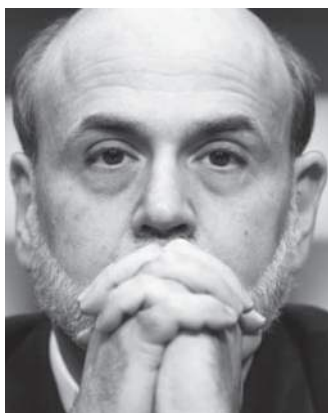
Since late last year, the Fed has bought government bonds to keep interest rates low. Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues are expected to signal this week that they will allow the program to expire as scheduled in June.

The end of the bond-buying program would mean that, aside from tax cuts, almost all the extraordinary measures the government took to prop up the economy are over. Congress is fighting over how deeply to cut federal spending, not whether to spend more for stimulus.

Since the Fed announced the plan last August, worries that the economy would fall back into recession have all but disappeared. The private sector is adding jobs, and the stock market is at its highest point since the summer of 2008.

But higher oil and food prices pose a threat. If companies are forced to raise prices quickly to make up for escalating costs, that could start a spiral of inflation. Exactly how much of a threat inflation poses to the economy right now is a matter of disagreement within the central bank.

A vocal minority, including the Fed regional chiefs in Philadelphia and Minneapolis, believe the Fed may need to raise interest rates by the end of this year to fight inflation. The Fed has kept



AP  
In his March 1, 2011 file photo, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, before the Senate Banking Committee.

its benchmark interest rate near zero since December 2008.

And, Richard Fisher, president of the Federal Reserve

Bank of Dallas, argues that the Fed has done its job and should consider halting the bond program now, not in June. "Now we at the Fed are nearing a tipping point," Fisher told reporters earlier this month, referring to inflation.

The majority—including Bernanke, vice chairwoman Janet Yellen and William Dudley, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York—believe interest rates should stay low longer, and the bond-buying program should run its course.

Bernanke has predicted that the jump in oil and food prices will cause only a brief, modest increase in consumer inflation. Excluding those prices, which tend to fluctuate sharply, inflation is still low, he has argued.

Bill Gross, who manages

the world's largest mutual fund at Pimco, worries that rates on Treasury bonds will rise when the Fed stops buying them. If other buyers don't step in and there's less demand for Treasury bonds, then the rates, or yields, on those bonds would rise. That would drive down prices on bonds. Rates on mortgages, corporate debt and other loans pegged to the Treasury securities would rise, too. Higher borrowing costs could slow spending by people and businesses, and slow the overall economy.

Fed officials and others believe that because the end of the program has been well telegraphed, it won't have much of an impact on bond rates. That was the case in 2010 when the Fed ended a \$1.7 trillion stimulus program.

The bond-buying program was the Fed's second since the recession, and is known as "quantitative easing," or "QE2" for short. The economy would have to be in serious danger of tipping into another recession for the Fed to consider embarking on a third round.

The Fed has other tools at its disposal. Since early August, it has taken about \$17 billion a month that it earns in interest from mortgage-backed securities and used it to buy bonds, a separate and smaller step than the \$600 billion program.

So far this year, Bernanke has managed to forge consensus for his policies—all Fed decisions this year have been unanimous—but the deepening divides could make Bernanke's job more difficult.

## Oil falls to near \$111 as US dollar strengthens

**SINGAPORE (AP)**—Oil prices fell to near \$111 a barrel Tuesday in Asia as a stronger dollar made crude more expensive for investors with other currencies.

Benchmark crude for June delivery was down \$1.08 at \$111.20 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract lost a penny to settle at \$112.28 on Monday.

In London, Brent crude for June delivery was down 74 cents to \$122.92 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

A weaker dollar and violent political uprising in the Middle East and North Africa have helped push prices up about 32 percent since mid-February. The euro fell to \$1.4539 on Tuesday from \$1.4579 late Monday.

Traders are mulling how the Federal Reserve may ease a program of buying Treasuries known as quantitative easing that has helped keep the U.S. economy flush with cash.

The Fed meets later Tuesday and Wednesday and Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke is scheduled to hold a news conference at the end of the meeting.

"There can be little doubt that the Federal Reserve's hyper-accommodative monetary policy has caused commodity and asset inflation around the world," said Richard Soutanian of NUS Consulting. "The likely transition of the Fed's monetary policy, albeit gradual, will begin to remove some of the more speculative fervor from the market, bringing prices slowly down."

Investors are also closely watching escalating violence in

Syria. On Monday, thousands of soldiers backed by tanks and snipers attacked suspected anti-government protesters in the southern city of Daraa and other areas, killing at least 11 people. The crackdown since mid-March has killed more than 350 people throughout the country, with 120 alone dying over the weekend.

"While Syria is not an actual oil producer, it has broader ramifications on other countries in the region and could keep oil well bid in the short term," IG Markets in Melbourne said in a report.

In other Nymex trading in May contracts, heating oil fell 1.2 cents to \$3.17 a gallon and gasoline slid 2.3 cents to \$3.30 a gallon. Natural gas futures were down 5 cents at \$4.34 per 1,000 cubic feet.



AP  
This undated photo provided by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, shows a front-end, crash test of the 2011 Chevrolet Volt.

## Nissan Leaf, Chevy Volt get top safety ratings

**DETROIT (AP)**—The Chevrolet Volt and Nissan Leaf got top safety ratings in some of the first-ever tests of electric cars by an insurer-funded research group.

Both cars earned top scores for front, side and rear-impact crashes and for rollover crash protection, according to results released Tuesday by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

While both the Leaf and Volt are classified as small cars, the institute said their heavy battery packs put their weight closer to large sedans. The Volt, for example, weighs 3,760 pounds, which is close to the weight of

the Chevrolet Impala. The Leaf weighs 3,370 pounds, which is similar to a Nissan Altima mid-size car. That extra mass helps protect their occupants, since heavier cars are less likely to be pushed around in a crash.

The Leaf runs solely on battery power and has a range of around 100 miles. The Volt can go around 40 miles on an electric charge before a small gas engine kicks in.

The institute said it was the first time it has tested road-worthy plug-in cars. Two golf cart-like electric vehicles, the Gem e2 and Wheego Whip, were tested for research purposes but

performed poorly in side-impact tests, the group said. But those cars run at very low speeds and aren't required to meet federal safety standards.

The federal government hasn't yet released crash-test results for the Volt and Leaf.

"What powers the wheels is different, but the level of safety for the Volt and Leaf is as high as any of our other top crash test performers," said Joe Nolan, the institute's chief administrative officer.

The institute, which is funded by insurance companies, buys the cars it tests directly from dealers.

## NTSB: Loose rivets found in plane with hole

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Investigators trying to determine why the roof of a Southwest Airlines jet cracked open in flight have issued preliminary findings suggesting there may have been flaws in the riveting work when Boeing built the plane 15 years ago.

The National Transportation Safety Board said Monday that some of the rivets used to bind the Boeing 737's aluminum panels together were sunk in holes larger than the rivet shafts. The holes weren't lined up correctly and were misshapen, not round, the board said.

It didn't offer any conclusions and said the investigation is continuing.

Southwest Flight 812 was about 34,000 feet over Arizona with 117 passengers on board on April 1 when a 5-foot-long hole opened in zipper-like fashion along a row of rivets in the roof. The pilot guided the plane to a safe emergency landing, and there were no injuries.

Some experts speculated that metal fatigue due to frequent takeoffs and landings over 15 years caused tiny subsurface cracks in the aluminum skin.

But the latest evidence points to a likely flaw in the plane's manufacturing and inspections of the process, said John Goglia, a former NTSB board member and expert on aircraft maintenance.

If rivet holes are even slightly too large, over time the flaw puts too much stress on the surface between holes and causes metal to fatigue or weaken, said Charles Eastlake, a former professor of aeronautical engineering at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Fla.



### LEADING INDICATORS

**DOW**  
12,479.90  
-26.11  
-0.21%

**S&P**  
1,335.25  
-2.13  
-0.16%

**NASDAQ**  
2,825.88  
+5.72  
0.20%

### EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	0.9358
British Pound	0.6077
Canadian Dollar	0.9551
Chinese Yuan	6.5234
Euro	0.6883

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7740	Philippine Peso	43.2895
Indian Rupee	44.850	Singapore Dollar	1.2373
Indonesian Rupiah	8,662.5	South Korean Won	1,085.7
Japanese Yen	81.6850	Swiss Franc	0.8838
Malaysian Ringgit	2.9968	Taiwan Dollar	28.9405
New Zealand Dollar	1.2497	Thailand Baht	30.0100



## Nation

## Residents flee as river overflows Missouri levee

**POPLAR BLUFF, Mo. (AP)**—Thousands of southeastern Missouri residents watched helplessly Monday as water from the Black River crept toward their homes after flowing over the levee protecting their town and trapping some who had to be rescued by boat.

Several homes in and around Poplar Bluff were partially submerged, while water filled the front yards of other houses. The river topped the levee in multiple spots, raising concerns that it would give way under the weight of inch after inch of rain that had been falling since the weekend.

"It was too late for sandbagging. There are too many places. If you sandbag one place, it goes to the next. All we can do is wait and see," Police Chief Danny Whiteley said. A levee break would send water flowing into the city's south side and likely displace about 7,000 people.

Heavy rain pelted communities from Arkansas to Kentucky. Like Poplar Bluff, many of them were already soaked

by previous storms and some were struggling to recover from tornadoes that had damaged homes, businesses and, in St. Louis, the main airport. While some communities evacuated, others began sandbagging in anticipation of worse flooding as more storms roll in.

The storm system that hit northeast Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas on Monday will head north and reach Illinois and Wisconsin by Tuesday, said Greg Carbin, a meteorologist with the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla. At the same time, a second storm system will start on the same path, meaning the same communities will get dumped on over and over. That system will continue east through Thursday, he said.

"I think we'll see substantial flooding," Carbin predicted, adding later, "Arkansas to Illinois, that corridor, they've already have incredible rainfall and this is going to aggravate the situation."

The region will get at least



Members of the Missouri Highway Patrol set off by boat to patrol a flooded street and check for victims of a flash flood Monday, April 25, 2011, in Poplar Bluff, Mo.

6 inches of rain over the next three days, he said. An area east of Little Rock, Ark., stretching across Memphis and up to eastern Tennessee will be hardest hit

with 8 to 9 inches.

Dozens of roads in multiple states have already closed because of flooding, and several school districts canceled classes

for that reason. Communities like Paducah, Ky., in the Ohio River valley were building flood walls to hold back the water and adding rocks to the top

of earthen levees.

In Missouri, emergency crews rescued a man Monday morning after his pickup truck was swept into a water-filled ditch about 10 miles southeast of Poplar Bluff. State patrol troopers used boats to help other people trapped in their homes by rising water, including a homebound woman.

Jamie McIntosh, 28, said police knocked at her house in Poplar Bluff, where she lives with eight relatives, and encouraged them to leave, although the evacuation wasn't mandatory. They went anyway. The home flooded in 2008 and three rooms were destroyed, and "this one looks a lot worse," McIntosh said.

At least 1,000 people left voluntarily, officials said. Some sought shelter at the town's Black River Coliseum, a 5,000-seat concert and meeting venue that overlooks the swollen river and a park that's already under water. Others moved in with friends and relatives. There were no reports of injuries.

## Barbour out, GOP ponders as 2012 field takes shape

**JACKSON, Miss. (AP)**—Republican Gov. Haley Barbour bowed out of presidential contention Monday with a surprise announcement just as the 2012 campaign was getting under way in earnest, 18 months before Election Day. The Mississippi governor said he lacked the necessary "absolute fire in the belly" to run.

Barbour's declaration, unexpected because he had been laying the groundwork for a campaign for months, thins a Republican cluster of no less than a dozen potential candidates to take on Democratic President Barack Obama.

With the GOP campaign's first debate scheduled for next week, the muddy Republican field will become clearer very soon as more potential



In this Feb. 11, 2011 file photo, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney addresses the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Washington.

contenders announce whether they'll run or sit out. The next, facing a self-imposed deadline of this weekend, is Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels, a Barbour

friend and a fiscal conservative who has shined a spotlight on rising budget deficits and national debt.

"All eyes will be on Dan-

iels. ... It's a clear path for him if he wants to run," said Doug Gross, an Iowa Republican who dined with Barbour last month and left questioning whether the governor had the hunger to get in the race.

It turns out he didn't.

"I will not be a candidate for president next year," the two-term governor said a statement, adding that he wasn't ready for a "10-year commitment to an all-consuming effort."

As the GOP race comes into sharper focus, Obama is working to both prevent an erosion of his support while under Republican attack and to raise enough money to overwhelm his eventual foe. He's been packing his schedule with fundraisers and visits to bat-

riage, the coalition of religious and conservative groups that sponsored Proposition 8, however, have not previously raised his sexual orientation as a legal issue.

Protect Marriage general counsel Andy Pugno said that changed when the judge this month told a group of courthouse reporters about his 10-year relationship. The issue is not that Walker is gay, but that his relationship status made him too similar to the same-sex couples who sued for the right to marry, Pugno said.

"We deeply regret the necessity of this motion. But if the courts are to require others to follow the law, the courts themselves must do so as well," Pugno added.

## Judge's partner cited in Prop 8 case

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—The sponsors of California's same-sex marriage ban said Monday that the recent disclosure by the federal judge who struck down Proposition 8 that he is in a long-term relationship with another man has given them new grounds to have his historic ruling overturned.

Lawyers for the ban's backers filed a motion in San Francisco's U.S. District Court, arguing that Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker should have removed himself from the case or at least disclosed his relationship status because his "impartiality might reasonably be questioned."

"Only if Chief Judge Walker had unequivocally disavowed any interest in marrying his partner could the parties and the public be confident that he did not have a direct personal interest in the outcome of the case," attorneys for the coalition of religious and conservative groups that put Proposition 8 on the November 2008 ballot wrote.

They are now asking the judge who inherited the case when Walker retired at the end of February to vacate Walker's August 2010 decision. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals already is reviewing the legal merits of Walker's ruling at the request

of Proposition 8's proponents.

Lawyers for the two same-sex couples who successfully sued for the right to marry in Walker's court were reviewing the motion and did not have immediate comment.

Walker, a 67-year-old Republican appointee, declared Proposition 8 to be an unconstitutional violation of gay Californians' civil rights last summer. He retired from the bench at the end of February.

Rumors that the judge was gay circulated during the 13-day trial that preceded his decision and after he handed down his ruling.

Lawyers for Protect Mar-

tleground states as he gears up for what he says will be a tough campaign.

This week alone, he will raise money in New York and return to his hometown of Chicago—also the site of his campaign headquarters—to tape an episode of "The Oprah Winfrey Show." He then will head to Florida, a pivotal swing state, to deliv-

er a commencement address at Miami Dade College and attend the launch of Endeavour, NASA's next-to-last space shuttle flight.

Potentially vulnerable, Obama has middling poll ratings and is seeking a second term in a country reeling over high unemployment, rising gas prices and the remnants of recession.

## ACROSS THE NATION

## Another air controller fired for sleeping on job

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The Federal Aviation Administration says a third air traffic controller has been fired for napping on the job. An email from the agency says the controller assigned to Boeing Field in Seattle was fired Monday for sleeping on duty on April 11 and Jan. 6. The FAA has been beset recently with a series of incidents involving air controllers. Since March, five incidents of sleeping on the job have surfaced, along with one of an air controller watching a DVD movie while on the overnight shift and an aborted landing of a plane with first lady Michelle Obama and Jill Biden, wife of the vice president, on board.

## Parents, preteen boy die in early morning NYC fire

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Neighbors say two adults and their preteen son died in a New York City house fire that left two younger children with minor injuries. Police identify the victims of Monday morning's blaze as a 36-year-old man,

a 43-year-old woman and a 12-year-old boy. More than 100 firefighters responded to the blaze. Officials say four of them suffered minor injuries at the two-family home in the Tremont section of the Bronx. A fire chief at the scene tells WCBS radio firefighters encountered heavy flames shooting from the building's front door.

## Cocaine floating in NM lake where plane crashed

**ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)**—State police divers have recovered what a spokesman describes as "fragmented pieces of human remains" from a northern New Mexico lake where authorities have been finding bundles of cocaine since a small plane crashed into the lake. State police spokesman Lt. Eric Garcia said he doesn't know if the remains found Monday belong to more than one person or if there are more remains. The plane, the pilot and any passengers haven't been identified, he said. Winds and current have caused plane debris to spread since Sunday's crash, but more than 20 packages of cocaine have been recovered.



# Asia

## Carter, other ex-leaders in NKorea on 3-day visit

**PYONGYANG, North Korea** (AP)—Former President Jimmy Carter and other past world leaders were hoping to meet with North Korea's leader as they began a three-day mission Tuesday to discuss dangerous food shortages and stalled nuclear disarmament talks.

Children presented flowers to Carter, former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari, former Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Brundtland and former Irish President Mary Robinson at the airport, and the group was greeted by Vice Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho, according to Associated Press Television News in Pyongyang.

The former leaders didn't know ahead of their three-day trip who they would meet with, but said they hoped to have talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il and his son and heir apparent Kim Jong Un.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency confirmed that Carter and his group arrived Tuesday morning by chartered plane.

The mission comes as diplomats struggle to find a way to restart talks meant to persuade the North to abandon its atomic weapons ambitions.

Dismal ties between North and South Korea, which have



Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, accompanied by his delegation members, is greeted upon arrival in Pyongyang, North Korea, Tuesday April 26, 2011.

ruined efforts to restart the nuclear talks, will also likely be on the agenda. Animosity has soared between the neighbors since the North allegedly torpedoed a South Korean warship in March 2010, killing 46 sailors. Pyongyang shelled a South Korean island in November, killing two civilians and two marines. The North late last year also revealed a secret uranium enrichment program that would give it a second

way to make nuclear weapons.

South Korea is demanding an apology for the warship sinking and island shelling before allowing deeper talks. North Korea says it wasn't responsible for the ship's destruction and says Seoul provoked the island shelling by staging live fire drills in disputed waters.

Before flying from Beijing to Pyongyang, Carter told South Korea's Yonhap news agency that he didn't intend to raise the

case of Korean-American Jun Young Su, who is being held in North Korea, reportedly on charges of carrying out missionary activity.

The U.S. State Department said last month that Carter would not be carrying any official messages.

It is not the first time Carter has traveled to North Korea during a period of high tension over Pyongyang's nuclear program. In 1994, he met with then-lead-

navy divers searched the waters up to 12 miles (20 kilometers) off the coast to find those swept out to sea.

The search is far more difficult than that for earthquake victims, who would mostly be under rubble. The tsunami could have left the victims anywhere. "We just don't know where the bodies are," Ose said.

In all, 370 troops from the 22nd infantry regiment looked for a dozen people still missing from Shichigahamamachi. The regiment had been searching the area with a far smaller contingent, but tripled the number of troops for the two-day intense search, said Col. Akira Kunitomo, the regimental commander.

Bodies found so many weeks after the disaster are likely to be unrecognizable, black and swollen, Ose said.

## With 12,000 still missing, Japan keeps searching

**SHICHIGAHAMAMACHI, Japan** (AP)—A line of somber soldiers walked methodically through a drained swamp Monday, with each step sinking their slender poles into the muck beneath.

If one hit a body, he would know.

"Bodies feel very distinctive," said Michihiro Ose, a spokesman for the Japanese army's 22nd infantry regiment.

The men were among 25,000 troops given the morbid duty of searching the rubble, the seas and the swamps of northeastern Japan for the bodies of the nearly 12,000 people still missing in last month's earthquake and tsunami.

The two-day operation was the biggest military search since the March 11 disaster. With waters receding, officials

hoped the troops, backed by police, coast guard and U.S. forces, would make significant progress. By Monday evening, they had found 38 bodies, the military said.

In the town of Shichigahamamachi, about two dozen Japanese soldiers in black boots, white masks and waterproof jumpsuits traveled silently in unison across the soggy earth, made even softer by torrential rains an hour earlier. In some areas, the mud came up to their knees.

The search focused on a long, narrow marsh drained in recent weeks by the army using special pump trucks.

Once the soldiers reached the end of the marsh, they turned around and walked back. And then back again.

"It's important not to miss

anything," Ose said as he watched the soldiers nearly camouflaged by the dark gray mud. "As long as there is time left in the day, we will keep going up and down."

In another part of town, several dozen soldiers cleared mountains of rubble by hand from a waterfront neighborhood filled with gutted and teetering houses. Four people in the neighborhood were missing, said 67-year-old Sannojo Watanabe.

"That was my house right there," he said, pointing to a foundation with nothing atop it.

He surveyed the neighborhood: "There's nothing left here."

A total of 24,800 soldiers—backed by 90 helicopters and planes—were sent to comb through the rubble for buried remains, while 50 boats and 100

er Kim Il Sung, Kim Jong Il's father and the North's founder, and helped broker a U.S.-North Korea nuclear deal.

He last visited North Korea in August to secure the release of imprisoned American Aijalon Gomes, who had been sentenced to eight years of hard labor for crossing into the North from China. Carter did not meet with Kim then because the leader was on a rare visit to China, his nation's biggest ally and aid provider.

Carter's trip comes amid efforts on several fronts to reinvigorate stalled six-nation nuclear negotiations. China's top nuclear envoy was due in Seoul on Tuesday for talks, while a South Korean delegation was to meet with U.S.

diplomats in Washington.

North Korea's nuclear envoy reportedly traveled to Beijing earlier this month to discuss restarting the talks, which involve the two Koreas, the United States, China, Japan and Russia.

The former world leaders also plan to discuss food shortages that could threaten many North Koreans.

Years of poor harvests, a lack of investment in agriculture and political isolation have left the North severely vulnerable to starvation, with the average amount of food distributed by the government to each person dropping this year from 1,400 calories per day to just 700, according to the U.N.'s World Food Program.

## Bus bombings kill 4 in Pakistan's biggest city

**KARACHI** (AP)—Twin bomb attacks against Pakistani navy buses that were talking employees to work Tuesday killed four people and wounded more than 50 others.

The blasts took place roughly 15 minutes apart in different areas of Karachi, the country's biggest city, said Navy Commander Salman Ali.

Islamist militants have staged repeated attacks on security forces and other state targets in recent years. Allied with or inspired by al-Qaida, they are seeking to overthrow Pakistan's U.S.-allied government or force a halt in army offensives against their safe havens in the northwest close to Afghanistan.

Karachi, the capital of southern Sindh province and the economic heart of the nation, has not been spared.

The buses were taking naval employees to work in the coastal city, the home of the Pakistani navy, when the bombs hit.

At least one of the victims was female doctor, said Ali.

It was unclear whether the bombs were planted devices or suicide attacks.

Islamist terrorism in Pak-

istan began in earnest after the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, which caused widespread anger in Pakistan and destabilized its border regions. The extremists began targeting the Pakistani state after it allied with Washington in its campaign against extremism.

Meanwhile, 14 people, among them women and children, were killed when fire ripped through a bus in southwestern Pakistan late Monday. Witness Abdul Hai said the bus in Baluchistan was attacked by gunmen who later set it on fire. Other officials were quoted in Pakistani media giving a similar account of the incident.

But police officer Sayeed Farid Shah said the bus caught fire due to an engine fault.

Hai said the bus was parked at a roadside restaurant where he worked and he saw the attack.

Baluchistan is wracked by separatist violence and civilians are often targeted, especially settlers from elsewhere in Pakistan. Information from the region is very hard to confirm, and transparent investigations are rarely carried out into violent incidents.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Farmers protest against Japanese nuke plant owner

**TOKYO** (AP)—More than 200 farmers affected by radiation spewing from Japan's crippled nuclear power plant have launched a protest in front of the operator's headquarters. The farmers from northeastern Japan brought two cows with them to their protest in To-

kyo, where they chanted and punched the air with their fists Tuesday. They also held signs saying "Stop nuclear energy" outside Tokyo Electric Power Co.'s offices. Radiation leaking from the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant damaged by the March 11 tsunami has been found in milk, water and leafy vegetables such as spinach from around the plant.

#### ADB says rising food prices threaten Asia's poor

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—The Asian Development Bank says world food prices have surged by more than 30 percent in the first two months and threaten to push millions of Asians into extreme poverty. The Manila-based lender says in a report

Tuesday that food inflation in many Asian economies has averaged 10 percent early this year and is likely to continue because of the global oil hikes, production shortfalls due to bad weather and export restrictions by several food producing countries. The fast increases in the cost of food are a serious setback for the region that has rebounded

rapidly from the global economic crisis.

#### 2 dingoes maul 3-year-old girl on Australia beach

**BRISBANE, Australia** (AP)—Two dingoes that mauled a 3-year-old girl on an Australian beach have been caught and were to be destroyed, officials said Tuesday.

The girl suffered bites to her legs when the native wild dogs attacked her Monday after she wandered away from her family and into sand dunes on Fraser Island in northeastern Queensland state. Environment Department general manager Terry Harper said the two dogs blamed for the attack were trapped Tuesday and would be humanely destroyed.



## World

## WORLD BRIEFS

**Poll: Over half of Egypt wants end to Israel peace**

**CAIRO (AP)**—More than half of all Egyptians would like to see the 1979 peace treaty with Israel annulled, according to results of a poll conducted by the U.S.-based Pew Research Center released Monday. The poll highlights the deep unpopularity of the three-decade-old treaty, which is central to U.S. policy in the region and was scrupulously adhered to by former President Hosni Mubarak, until his Feb. 11 ouster. The poll also revealed that most Egyptians are optimistic about where the country is headed following the 18-day popular uprising that brought down the president, and they look forward to greater democracy in their country.

**Yemen troops kill 2 in new clashes with protesters**

**SANAA, Yemen (AP)**—Forces loyal to Yemen's embattled president opened fire on protesters demanding his ouster Monday, killing two and wounding dozens at various protests, activists said. The latest violence came as a Gulf Arab proposal for President Ali Abdullah Saleh to step down appears increasingly doomed, raising prospects of more bloodshed and instability in a nation already beset by deep poverty and conflict. Yemen's unrest erupted over two months ago, inspired by uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt. The near-daily protests against Saleh, the country's ruler of 32 years, have demanded he relinquish power immediately.

**Real IRA condemns queen's planned visit to Ireland**

**DUBLIN (AP)**—An Irish Republican Army splinter group vowed Monday to oppose next month's visit to Ireland by Queen Elizabeth II and to keep killing Northern Ireland police officers—particularly those recruited from its own Catholic heartlands. "The queen of England is wanted for war crimes in Ireland and not wanted on Irish soil," a masked Real IRA man told more than 200 supporters rallying in a cemetery in Northern Ireland's second-largest city of Londonderry. The dissidents' rally featured seven masked men wearing black berets and military uniforms. Police did not attempt to stop the event, and instead kept watch from a surveillance helicopter.

## Thousands of Syrian troops raid rebellious city

**BEIRUT (AP)**—Thousands of soldiers backed by tanks and snipers moved in before dawn to the city where Syria's anti-government uprising began, causing panic in the streets when they opened fire indiscriminately on civilians and went house-to-house rounding up suspected protesters. At least 11 people were killed and 14 others lay in the streets—either dead or gravely wounded, witnesses said.

The military raids on the southern city of Daraa and at least two other areas suggested Syria is trying to impose military control on the centers of protests against President Bashar Assad, whose family has ruled Syria for four decades. Residents and human rights activists said the regime wants to terrify opponents and intimidate them from staging any more demonstrations.

The offensive was meticulously planned: Electricity, water and mobile phone services were cut. Security agents armed with guns and knives conducted house-to-house sweeps, neighborhoods were sectioned off and checkpoints were erected before the sun rose.

"They have snipers firing on everybody who is moving," a witness told The Associated Press by telephone. "They aren't discriminating. There are snipers on the mosque. They are firing at everybody," he added, asking that his name not be used



This video image taken from amateur video released by Sham News Network, a Syrian Freedom group, shows a man throwing an object at a tank in Daraa, Syria Sunday April 24, 2011

for fear of retribution.

The massive assault on Daraa appeared to be part of new strategy of crippling, pre-emptive strikes against any opposition to Assad, rather than reacting to demonstrations. Other crackdowns and arrest sweeps were reported on the outskirts of Damascus and the coastal town of Jableh—bringing more international condemnation and threats of targeted sanctions by Washington.

Razan Zeitounia, a human

rights activist in Damascus, said the widespread arrests—including of men along with their families—appear to be an attempt to scare protesters and set an example for the rest of the country.

The attack on Daraa, an impoverished city on the Jordanian border, was by far the biggest in scope and firepower. Video purportedly shot by activists showed tanks rolling through streets and grassy fields with soldiers on foot jogging behind them.

Witnesses said busloads of troops poured in before dawn and snipers took up positions on the roofs of houses and high buildings while other security agents searched houses for suspected protesters.

"They are entering houses. They are searching the houses," said one witness. "They are carrying knives and guns."

He said people were crying out over mosque loudspeakers for doctors to help the wounded and

there was panic in the streets.

"We need international intervention. We need countries to help us," shouted another witness in Daraa, who said he saw five corpses after security forces opened fire on a car. He spoke to the AP by telephone.

The forces occupied two mosques and a graveyard.

"Let Obama come and take Syria. Let Israel come and take Syria. Let the Jews come," shouted one Daraa resident over the phone. "Anything is better than Bashar Assad," he said, playing on Syria's hatred for Israel to highlight how much town residents despise their leader.

All witnesses spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

Daraa, a drought-parched region of 300,000 in the south, has seen some of the worst bloodshed over the past five weeks as the uprising gained momentum. The area was ripe for unrest: The grip of Syria's security forces is weaker on the border areas than around the capital, Damascus, and Daraa hasn't benefited from recent years of economic growth. Meanwhile, Daraa has absorbed many rural migrants who can no longer farm after years of drought.

The city of Daraa was where Syria's uprising began in mid-March, touched off by the arrest of teenagers who scrawled anti-government graffiti on a wall.

## NATO strike on Gadhafi HQ raises pressure on him

**TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)**—The latest NATO airstrike on Moammar Gadhafi's compound that reduced parts of it to a smoldering ruin steps up pressure on the increasingly embattled Libyan leader as he struggles to hold onto the western half of the country.

A Libyan government spokesman denounced Monday's bombing as a failed assassination attempt, saying the 69-year-old leader was healthy, "in high spirits" and carrying on business as usual.

A separate airstrike elsewhere in Tripoli targeted Libyan TV and temporarily knocked it off the air, a government spokesman said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief reporters.

Since an armed uprising erupted in mid-February, Gadhafi has been clinging to control in the western half of Libya, while opposition forces run most of the east. A NATO campaign of airstrikes has sought to break a battlefield stalemate, and the U.S. last week added armed U.S. Predator drones to the mission. Italy said Monday its military will join in strategic bombing raids in Libya.

NATO said its latest airstrike sought to destroy a communica-

tions headquarters used to coordinate attacks on civilians. A spokesman for the alliance said it is increasingly targeting facilities linked to Gadhafi's regime.

"We have moved on to those command and control facilities that are used to coordinate such attacks by regime forces," the spokesman said of the strike on Bab al-Aziziya, which was hit last month, early in the NATO air campaign. The official spoke on condition of anonymity in line with military briefing regulations.

Gadhafi's forces unleashed new shelling Monday on Misrata that killed at least 10 people, following a weekend pounding that belied government claims its troops were holding their fire as they withdrew from the western city that has been besieged for nearly two months.

Among the dead from a shattered residential neighborhood was an entire family, according to a doctor in Misrata. Mourners later carried six crudely constructed coffins of family members, plus one child who had been visiting, to a funeral near a mosque.

Local hospitals have been overwhelmed by the rising casualties. "As soon as we clear out the hospital of injuries, Gadhafi fills it up for us again," said the doctor, speaking on condition of

anonymity for fear of reprisal.

The assault on Misrata, which has claimed hundreds of lives, has deepened Gadhafi's international isolation. It has also prompted new demands that Libya's ruler of 41 years be ousted as part of the international bombing campaign, unleashed a month ago to protect Libyan civilians from Gadhafi's forces.

In the attack on Gadhafi's Bab al-Aziziya compound, which was at least the third NATO strike on the site in the capital, two powerful guided bombs struck a multi-story library and office building. Loose pages from books were scattered across the debris-filled ground covered by soot and water from fire trucks.

The blast also damaged a nearby reception hall, furnished with big sofas and chandeliers and site of a meeting between Gadhafi and African leaders only two weeks earlier. In one room, a large round meeting table was covered by a thick layer of dust. Workers wearing face masks washed away the soot with water hoses.

Government spokesman Moussa Ibrahim said three people were killed and 45 wounded, 15 of them seriously, by the airstrikes. He did not elaborate and turned down a request to arrange for interviews with the wounded.

## Chernobyl widows mourn as bell tolls 25 times

**KIEV, Ukraine (AP)**—Black-clad Orthodox priests sang solemn hymns, Ukrainians lit thin wax candles and a bell tolled 25 times for the number of years that have passed since the Chernobyl disaster as the world began marking the anniversary Tuesday of the worst nuclear accident in history.

Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill led the service near a monument to firefighters and clean up workers who died soon after the accident from acute radiation poisoning.

"The world had not known a catastrophe in peaceful times that could be compared to what happened in Chernobyl," said Kirill, who was accompanied by Ukraine's Prime Minister Mykola Azarov and other officials.

"It's hard to say how this catastrophe would have ended if it hadn't been for the people, including those whose names we have just remembered in prayer," he said in an emotional tribute to the workers sent to the Chernobyl plant immediately after one of its reactors exploded.

Tuesday's service began shortly after midnight, the same time as the blast on April 26, 1986, that spewed a cloud of radioactive fallout over much of Europe and forced hundreds of thousands

from their homes in the most heavily hit areas in Ukraine, Belarus and western Russia.

The disaster did not become public knowledge for several days, because Soviet officials released no information until 72 hours after the accident.

The explosion released about 400 times more radiation than the U.S. atomic bomb dropped over Hiroshima. Hundreds of thousands were sickened and once-pristine forests and farmland still remain contaminated. The U.N.'s World Health Organization said at a conference in the Ukraine capital Kiev last week that among the 600,000 people most heavily exposed to the radiation, 4,000 more cancer deaths than average are expected to be eventually found.

Several hundred Ukrainians, mostly widows of plant workers, came to Tuesday's nighttime service to pay their respects to their loved ones and colleagues. Teary-eyed, they lit candles, stood in silence and crossed themselves to the sound of Orthodox chants.

"Our lives turned around 360 degrees," said Larisa Demchenko, 64. She and her husband both worked at the plant, and he died nine years ago from cancer linked to Chernobyl radiation.



# Focus



In this two picture combo, nesting terns and pelicans are seen on Cat Island on May 22, 2010, left, as oil from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill impacts the shore of an island in Barataria Bay, just inside the coast of Louisiana. The island is home to hundreds of brown pelican nests as well as terns, gulls and roseate spoonbills. The second photo taken on April 8, 2011 near the same location, shows the shoreline heavily eroded, and the lush marsh grass and mangrove trees mostly dead or dying. Biologists from the Louisiana Department of Fish and Wildlife say this is largely because the island was completely overwashed by the oil, and poorly maintained oil booms contributed to the damage as well.

AP

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)**—It was the catastrophe that seemed to crush a way of life, an oil rig exploding in the darkness and plunging the Gulf Coast and its people into months of chaos.

One year after the nation's worst offshore oil spill began, solemn ceremonies will mark the disaster Wednesday and underscore the delicate healing that is only now taking shape. Oil still occasionally rolls up on beaches in the form of tar balls, and fishermen face an uncertain future.

But traffic jams on the narrow coastal roads of Alabama, crowded seafood restaurants in Florida and families vacationing along the Louisiana coast attest to the fact that familiar routines are returning, albeit slowly.

"We used to fuss about that," said Ike Williams, referring to the heavy traffic headed for the water in Gulf Shores, Ala., where he rents chairs and umbrellas to beachgoers. "But it was such a welcome sight."

Although life is getting back to normal, many questions linger: Will the fishing industry recover? Will the environment bounce back completely? Will an oil-hungry public ever accept more deep-water drilling?

"It seems like it is all gone," said Tyler Priest, an oil historian at the University of Houston. "People have turned their attention elsewhere. But it will play out like Exxon Valdez did. There will be 20 years of litigation."

On Tuesday, the federal government reopened the last of the waters that were closed last year after the massive spill, about 1,040 square miles near the sunken rig. And fresh revelations from a BP engineer's email exchanges with his wife highlighted the missteps made on the ill-fated rig before the explosion.

In the months since the April 20, 2010, blast aboard the Deepwater Horizon, an administrator has handed out \$3.8 billion from a \$20 billion claims fund set up by BP. The number of cleanup workers went from 48,000 at the height of the spill to 2,000 today.

Most scientists agree the effects "were not as severe as many had predicted," said Christopher D'Elia, dean at the School of the Coast and Environment at Louisiana State University. "People had said this was an ecological Armageddon, and that did not come to pass."

Still, biologists are concerned about the spill's long-term impact on marine life.

"There are these cascading effects," D'Elia said. "It could be accumulation of toxins in the food chain, or changes in the food web. Some species might dominate."

Meanwhile, accumulated oil is believed to lie on the bottom of the Gulf,

and it still shows up as a thick, gooey black crust along miles of Louisiana's marshy shoreline. Scientists have begun to notice that the land in many places is eroding.

For example, on Cat Island, a patch of land where pelicans and reddish egrets nest among the black mangroves, Associated Press photographs taken a year ago and compared to those taken recently show visible loss of land and a lack of vegetation.

"Last year, those mangroves were healthy, dark green. This year they're not," said Todd Baker, a biologist with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Land is eroding on sites where the oil has killed vegetation.

Confidence in Louisiana's seafood is eroding, too.

"Where I'm fishing it all looks pretty

saster was caused by a cascade of technical and managerial failures, including a faulty cement job. A testing firm hired by the government concluded that the key device used for preventing blowouts failed because of a design problem that prevented it from cutting through pipe.

Fresh revelations from a BP drilling engineer who worked on the blown-out well shed some new light on the jitters and missteps overtaking the ill-fated facility in the weeks before the explosion.

Brian Morel first gained national attention when he referred to the Macondo as the "nightmare well" in an email to a colleague revealed by lawmakers last summer. Last week, the AP obtained additional email exchanges between Morel and his wife, including one in which he said his team at the company was "out of control."

... seared on the American imagination forever," Brinkley said.

The BP gusher, caught by the "spill-cams" a mile under the sea and delivered nightly to American living rooms, made oil, and its nasty nature, very real.

"It was a huge wake-up call for other treasured landscapes not to become a Gulf of Mexico," Brinkley said. "So the true historical impact may be in places like arctic Alaska, the Chesapeake, offshore Washington, places that have been contemplating offshore drilling."

Added Priest: "It made oil visible to Americans. We know we consume oil. In our subconscious, we know that is what fuels our economy and our society. But we never see it."

For 85 days—from the time the Macondo well began leaking until it was finally capped after a series of failed at-

killed when the rig exploded. Jones left behind a 2-year-old son and a baby he never met.

"I know other people have experienced losses like this. The difference I guess is that we're reliving it essentially every day," said Jones' brother, Chris. "I don't think I've picked up the newspaper in the last year where there hasn't been an article about one part of this disaster."

For the most part, the damage was eventually contained.

"If you come out and see the progress, you'd think so too," said Mike Brewer, a Plaquemines Parish oil spill response supervisor, reached Tuesday by telephone as he worked in Bay Jimmy, the hardest hit marsh area where oil remains in a thick crust along the marsh edge.

Brewer, who has spent 25 years cleaning up spills in Louisiana, said this spill was the Big One that he always feared. But was it the last spill ever?

"You expect sooner or later it will happen. And sooner or later, I believe it will happen again," he said. "You need the industry to continue to produce, to continue to drill, and you just need more cautionary measures. You just can't cut corners."

Wednesday also marks the final day to file some legal claims against rig owner Transocean Ltd., which is the focus of a trial next year to determine the company's liability for the disaster.

For now, the fishing communities of the Gulf Coast are praying for a good spawning season and a good catch—exactly as they had hoped a year ago before the Deepwater Horizon blew up.

Swift, the catfisherman, will be putting out nets when the anniversary dawns in the hope of supplying some fish for the local Cambodian-Americans, who are celebrating their New Year.

He said fishermen are getting by, thanks in large part to money from BP, which has helped assuage the pain of the spill, allowing poor and often homeless fishermen to buy trailers, boats and other gear.

"I made the most I've ever made. And I'm sure there were a lot of others the same," Swift said. "I had to pay \$10,000 in tax."

With the \$65,000 he received last year—working on the cleanup for BP and getting \$12,000 in compensation for the loss of his livelihood—he bought a boat, a 21-footer, and two motors.

Will Americans get over the image of that BP gusher fouling the Gulf? Swift wonders.

"A lot of people think it's a dirty place," he said. "The oil has given it a bad name. I was at one of these seafood chains, and they advertised their shrimp as being fresh and 'Pacific.'"

## A year after spill, Gulf Coast is healing, hurting



In this two picture combo, a heavily-oiled heron is seen on June 26, 2010, left, after being rescued from the waters of Barataria Bay, which were laden with oil from the Deepwater Horizon spill, in Plaquemines Parish, La. The second photo, taken on April 8, 2011 on nearby Cat Island, shows a healthy heron nesting in mangrove. Biologists from the Louisiana Department of Fish and Wildlife say Cat Island is significantly eroded, with much of the mangrove dead or dying, reducing the amount of space for nesting, because the island was completely overwashed by the oil, and poorly maintained oil booms contributed to the damage as well.

AP

much the same," said Glen Swift, a 62-year-old fisherman in Buras. He's catching catfish and gar in the lower Mississippi River again. That's not the problem.

"I can't sell my fish," he said. "The market's no good."

But the BP spill has faded from the headlines, overtaken by the tsunami and nuclear disaster in Japan, unrest in the Middle East and political clashes in Washington.

"Nationally, BP seems like a dim and distant memory," said Douglas Brinkley, a Rice University historian. But the accident will have long-lasting influence on environmental history, he said.

A presidential commission and an internal BP report concluded that the di-

"I can't take it, so I am staying away from the issues today," he wrote.

In a performance review a few weeks earlier, Morel had been told to "be aware of cynicism and criticism of company policies, actions, processes, etc. Don't be a victim."

Morel's wife, who also worked for BP, told him he was smart not to challenge some decisions. "They can live with the consequences if they are poor," she said.

The Deepwater Horizon was different from the two other major offshore spills in American history—the Santa Barbara blowout in 1969 that led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Exxon Valdez. But BP's disaster was a "seminal moment

tempts—Americans got a crash course in deep-water drilling: They learned about blowout preventers, well casings, top kills and top hats, toolpushers and the difference between an oil platform and an oil rig. They learned about where oil comes from and how toxic, or relatively benign, it can be.

In that time, 206 million gallons of oil—19 times more than the Exxon Valdez spilled, or enough to fill three-quarters of the Empire State Building—spewed from the well. In response, the nation commandeered the largest offshore fleet of vessels since D-Day, and BP spent billions of dollars to clean up the mess and save itself from collapse.

The blast also killed 11 rig workers, including Gordon Jones, an engineer



# Campus Life

## Poll: College students get hard lessons in finance

By CONNIE CASS  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In these tight times, college students are getting a lesson in economics no matter what their major. Students say money influences everything from what school they attend and what career they pursue to how quickly they complete their degrees—or whether they graduate at all.

Money problems, not bad grades, are the reason cited by most college students who have considered dropping out, an Associated Press-Viacom poll finds.

Almost 6 in 10 students rely on loans to help with college costs, and nearly half who do say they're uncomfortable with the debt. A majority of students at four-year colleges say they routinely feel at least a little worried about having enough money to make it through the week, according to the poll, conducted in partnership with Stanford University.

Scrimping has long been part of the college experience, of course, but tough times in the real world mean even tighter money on campus.

Recession-battered parents have less money to spend on their kids' tuition. Jobs that used to be waiting upon graduation aren't there anymore—consumed by the nation's 8.8 percent unemployment rate. And college prices keep going up, as states struggle with budget deficits. Average tuition, room and board rose to about \$16,000 at in-state public schools this year and \$37,000 at private schools.

Most college students—84 percent—need more than one source of cash to keep up, the poll of people ages 18 to 24 found.

About two-thirds say they work part-time or more to help pay for college. That's supplemented by another popular source of funds: Mom and Dad. Six in 10 get help from parents. The same number rely on scholarships for part of the bill.

"For a while, I couldn't find a job, and it was like, 'How am I going to eat? And how am I going to get to school if I don't have gas?'" said Allyson Bure, 20, a nursing student who works two part-time jobs, as a clerk at a Fashion Bug store and as a hotel housekeeper.

Like 57 percent of college students surveyed, Bure depends on student loans. Including debt she racked up at another school, she expects to owe about \$52,000 by the time she finishes her associate's degree at Trocaire College in East Aurora, N.Y. Then she hopes to transfer to a university.

Many students are uneasy about borrowing, with good reason. The U.S. Education Department says 7 percent of borrowers default within two years of beginning repayment on loans that can stretch for a decade or more. Average student loan debt tops \$23,000.

Bure's confident that she'll earn enough to pay off her loans. She's studying to become

a nurse anesthetist, a job that can pay well over \$100,000 per year. "I'll be secure," she predicts.

Despite the rising costs, 85 percent of students and recent grads say college is worth the time and money. In overwhelming numbers, they express satisfaction with the education they've received. And they have wide expectations for that education: Most say it's very or extremely important that colleges broaden students' knowledge and expand their minds, help them gain life skills, expose them to new experiences and train them for a career.

Nine out of 10 expect to find a job in their field. And for most, that's the bottom line. Fifty-five percent say an education that focuses on success in the working world is more valuable than one focused on general knowledge and critical thinking.

With that pragmatic attitude, many treat education like a commodity to be shaped to fit their needs and budgets.

Most college students say cost was a big factor in determining where they applied and which school they ended up attending. A hefty majority—86 percent—say it's worthwhile to switch programs if you're not getting exactly what you want from a



Falma Habbaba, a student at Cuyamaca College, takes a phone order at her post as hostess at the Tabu Sushi Bar and Grill Monday, April 18, 2011 in El Cajon, CA.

AP

school. A third said they added another major to increase their options after graduation.

Three-fourths say it's more important to take the time to get exactly what they want from their education than to finish within the traditional four years, and a quarter who have finished took extra time.

On the other hand, lots of students are racing to the finish in order to save money.

About 4 in 10 college students hope to graduate in less than four years. To get a jump start, 58 percent of students took college-credit courses in high school. And about half earned credits at a community college before moving on to a

more expensive bachelor's degree program.

That's what Falma Habbaba is doing. Once she's finished two years at Cuyamaca College, she plans to transfer to nearby San Diego State University. Half of the college students surveyed, including Habbaba, hope to continue their educations beyond a four-year degree. In her case, it's law school that beckons.

Habbaba, 18, has been relying on grants and a part-time job as a restaurant hostess to pay her way, and she worries about finding enough money to finish her schooling. But she's optimistic that she'll achieve career happiness. So are 94 percent of the college students surveyed.

For half of college students, money was a big factor in choosing what career to pursue. But more than one-fourth say that didn't enter into their thinking at all.

"If you do what you love, you'll be all right in life," Habbaba said.

The AP-Viacom telephone survey of 1,104 adults ages 18-24 was conducted Feb. 18-March 6 by GfK Roper Public Affairs & Corporate Communications. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

Stanford University's participation in this project was made possible by a grant from The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

## For-profit colleges adopt conduct code

ALAN SCHER ZAGIER  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Faced with growing public scrutiny and increased federal oversight, a national group of for-profit colleges said Thursday that its members will now follow a voluntary code of conduct designed to crack down on abuses that have rocked the industry's image.

The Coalition for Educational Success, a Washington, D.C.-based group that represents career colleges serving 350,000 students at nearly 500 campuses, announced the Standards of Responsible Conduct, but won't

release the complete code until this summer. The industry group said it will cover areas ranging from standard disclosures of tuition costs and job placement rates to more transparent financial aid policies.

Managing director Penny Lee said the standards will provide a "new level of accountability."

"We know concerns have been raised and we take them very seriously," she said. "This is a significant step for the sector."

The announcement comes as another industry group battles the U.S. Department of Education in federal court in a bid to

block new regulations of for-profit higher education institutions. The industry has lobbied heavily in Washington against a proposed "gainful employment" rule that could limit schools' access to federal financial aid if graduates' debt levels are too high or too few students repay loans.

Also, Lee's coalition sued the federal General Accounting Office in February over a scathing GAO report that relied on undercover investigators posing as prospective students who found fraud at four schools and deceptive marketing practices at each of the 15 schools scrutinized.

Industry critics reacted with skepticism to the announcement.

"We're glad that the Coalition for Educational Success now seems to admit it has a problem," said David Halperin, executive director of Campus Progress, an offshoot of the Center for American Progress. "It would have been better if CES had proposed reforming itself before its back was to the wall."

The coalition's code will be overseen by Republican Thomas Kean, former New Jersey governor and Drew University president, and

Democrat Ed Rendell, former Pennsylvania governor. Halperin noted that Kean, who was also chairman of the federal 9/11 Commission, is a partner at an investment firm with a financial stake in privately held education companies.

Neither Kean nor Rendell were available for comment Thursday. In a written statement, they emphasized the role of career colleges in producing workers to better compete in the global economy.

Lee said the conduct code announcement is not an attempt by the group of for-profit colleges to influence the Education Department's pending rules, which could dramatically affect those schools' bottom

lines. The GAO report found that students at for-profit colleges received more than \$4 billion in Pell Grants and more than \$20 billion in federal loans in 2009 alone.

"This is separate and apart from what the administration wants to do," she said. "We can't stop that train."

Conduct codes are not new at for-profit colleges. The Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities, another leading group whose 1,600 members include industry heavyweights Kaplan Higher Education Corp. and ITT Educational Services Inc., adopted a similar code more than 15 years ago, an association spokesman said.



## Life & Style

# Email: Commander lacked info on Sheen escort in DC

## Amigo! Archie Comics plans Spanish digital copies

**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—Seizing upon Archie's popularity on the printed page, Archie Comics will now offer some of the titles in Spanish for download through its digital storefront.

After 70 years, Archie Comics is the first major publisher to expand its language offerings.

Jon Goldwater, co-chief executive of Archie Comics told The Associated Press the titles—Archie, Veronica & Betty and Jughead, among others—were made available online Monday as part of its digital offerings.

"We have an incredible number of fans, not just domestically, who speak Spanish," he told AP, adding that the traditional print versions of the comic, in English and Spanish, have been strong sellers in central and south America, as well as in Spain, too.

Archie Comics has typically offered up its print editions in a host of different languages, but never before digitally.

But with more and more publishers, Archie included, embracing digital downloads, Goldwater said it made sense to expand its offerings to more than just its comics in English.

"The great thing about our

company is that we're not just domestic, we're a global company," he said. "We have made incredible inroads, so we have tremendous fans all throughout that part of the world."

The comics will be available through its digital comics subscriptions at [www.archiedigital.com](http://www.archiedigital.com), though iTunes and the iVerse app, the Sony PSP and, in the next few weeks, Android-powered smartphones.

Goldwater said the comics are just the same as they are in English—"The gags seem to translate well," Goldwater said—and that means the adventures of those characters can be told while preserving the sense of story. While Spanish is the first language being offered, plans are in the works to offer editions in French and Hindi, too.

"People really do get the humor behind it," Goldwater said, adding that readers outside of the U.S. can experience a traditional American art form.

"It really is, in a certain sense, the American Dream. I know it sounds corny, but it's the typical small-town America where the kids all get along and everything is working well and there's plenty of food and everyone is sheltered," he said. "It translates very, very well."



Actor Charlie Sheen wipes his face as he watches a baseball game between the Colorado Rockies and the Florida Marlins on Sunday, April 24, 2011, in Miami.

A D.C. police commander who oversees police escorts apparently was unaware of details about an escort given to Charlie Sheen last week and demanded answers from his subordinates, according to an email obtained by The Associated Press on Monday.

In the email sent Wednesday afternoon to other police officials, and in response to questions from the media, Commander Hilton Burton demanded details about the escort given to Sheen on the way to his performance Tuesday at DAR Constitution Hall. Sheen, who flew into Dulles Interna-

tional Airport, was running late for the show after attending a child custody hearing earlier in the day in Los Angeles.

Burton is commander of the department's Special Operations Division, which generally is responsible for providing police escorts.

Sheen posted on Twitter that he had received a police escort to the show and included a photograph of a speedometer registering about 80 mph. His promotional company has repaid the city \$445 for the escort.

His post read: "In car with Police escort in front and rear!

Driving like someone's about to deliver a baby! Cop car lights (hash)Spinning!"

In response to a series of written questions about the escort, Burton told subordinates in the email, "This is why we should not do escorts for any and every body." Burton also demanded to know the cost of the escort, the "law that allows us to do it," where the escort came from and whether security was provided during the show. He also asked if Sheen was given an escort after the show.

Burton also asked, "Who approved it?" However, it was un-

clear if he was referring to security at the show or the escort.

Police Chief Cathy Lanier said on Friday that escorts were generally reserved for the president, vice president and visiting heads of state, though exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis. She also said Sheen's escort appeared to violate police protocol.

The department's internal affairs division is investigating the escort.

Reached by the AP on Monday, Burton referred questions to police spokeswoman Gwendolyn Crump. She also declined to comment on the email. (AP)

## Injured Broadway 'Spider-Man' actor rejoins show

**NEW YORK** (AP)—An actor seriously injured at the Broadway musical "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark" returned to work Monday, only four months after he plummeted 35 feet from an onstage platform.

"I feel amazing," said Christopher Tierney before reporting for rehearsals at the Foxwoods Theatre. He said the accident in December didn't give him second-thoughts about rejoining the stunt heavy show: "I'm ready to put on the harness right now and fly around."

Tierney, 31, suffered a fractured skull, a fractured shoulder blade, four broken ribs and three broken vertebrae on Dec. 20 when he tumbled in front of a shocked preview audience. Taken away from the theater in a stretcher, the actor had to wear a back brace and had eight screws put in his back. The pins were removed three months early and Tierney said he had been itching to return but had to get doctors to sign off first. He said he was 85

percent to 90 percent fully fit.

"My back healed really well, thank God," he said to a gaggle of reporters outside the stage entrance to the theater.

Asked if he was nuts to return after being hurt so badly, Tierney responded with a laugh. "Yeah, slightly," he said. Wearing jeans, sneakers, a hat and a gray jacket, the actor added, "I come back because I love it. I love being on stage. I love my cast."

Tierney returns to a different show than the one he left in December. While the actor healed, the \$65 million musical—the most expensive in Broadway history—parted ways with director and co-book writer Julie Taymor, and choreographer Daniel Ezralow, among others. U2's Bono and The Edge remain as songwriters, though the show's music is also being changed.

Tierney, of Portsmouth, N.H., said he had recently spoken to Taymor and called her a "loyal friend." He said she had reached out to him after



In this Jan. 7, 2011 file photo, stuntman Christopher Tierney attends a performance of "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark" in New York.

hearing he was returning to the show and wanted to make sure he was feeling up to it.

The show is currently on hiatus until previews begin again on May 12.

The new creative team—including director Philip William McKinley and playwright

Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa, musical consultant Paul Bogaev and sound designer Peter Hylenski—has announced a new opening day of June 14. Taymor is still billed as director and remains a part of the production.

Tierney's accident—which was blamed on an unconnected safety tether—was one of five accidents to cast members that marred the production. A lead actress, Natalie Mendoza, suffered a concussion during the first preview performance and left the show.

"Spider-Man" represents Tierney's Broadway debut. Besides executing the main Spider-Man aerial stunts, he also plays a super villain, a bully who torments Peter Parker and a dancer.

He had previously worked with the Houston Ballet, Ballet New England and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, danced in the national tour of Twyla Tharp's "Movin' Out" and appeared in the North American premiere of "Dirty Dancing" in Toronto.

In this comic cover provided by Archie Comic Publications, the cover of an Archie Comics in Spanish is shown.



# Danish pop band marks 20 years of fame in Asia

**KUALALUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)**—The Danish pop band Michael Learns To Rock has sold more than 10 million albums, performed in packed stadiums and spawned a string of soaring ballads that echo every night through countless karaoke bars.

But the trio's success belies a curious facet of its career: Two decades after releasing its debut CD, Michael Learns To Rock remains unknown in the United States and much of Europe but retains a legion of fans far away in Asia.

"When we started out by playing small gigs in small towns in Denmark, we had big dreams about world fame and fortune, but we feel privileged enough now to be embraced in Asia," drummer Kare Wanscher said in an interview in Kuala Lumpur this week during a three-concert Malaysian tour.

Michael Learns To Rock initially comprised a quartet of two high school friends and their acquaintances who grew up loving pop music. They came up with their band's name on a whim, inspired by Michael Jackson and 1980s groups such as Johnny Hates Jazz and Frankie Goes To Hollywood.

The young men enjoyed a promising beginning by winning a 1988 talent competition in Denmark and writing English-

language songs that secured them a recording contract in the United States.

Despite recording their eponymous first album in Los Angeles and embarking on a promotional push in New York in 1991, the CD flopped in America. Their lead single, "The Actor," received airplay in Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland, but the foundation for their future was paved by an Asian record executive who made it a No. 1 smash in Indonesia.

Other Asian nations such as Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines soon succumbed to the band's charms, which blend the easy-listening wistfulness of Barry Manilow with the infectious melodies of ABBA.

"The honest feelings in our songs fit the Asian way," said songwriter Jascha Richter, whose warm vocals have surely formed the soundtrack for numerous real-life teenage romances. "When we come to this region, we see a tradition for singing along to love songs that match our approach."

Some critics call Michael Learns To Rock's music mawkish. One of its biggest hits, "25 Minutes," tells of a man who searches for a lover with whom he broke up, only to find her standing in a wedding gown in front of a church.



In this photo taken Monday, April 25, 2011, Danish pop band Michael Learns To Rock members, from left, Mikkel Lentz, Jascha Richter, Kare Wanscher, pose before an interview in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. AP

She tearfully informs him that he's 25 minutes too late.

But their radio-friendly earnestness turned the three men into Denmark's biggest pop export, handing them respectable CD sales from Taiwan to Thailand and making them the headliners for a star-studded 1997 Hong Kong concert that marked the former British colony's return to Chinese rule.

Another 1997 show in Hanoi nearly sparked a stampede when thousands of Vietnamese fans who were tricked into buying fake tickets hurled bricks through windows to enter the hall. Riot police escorted the band to safety.

These days, the band has a relaxed routine of making an album every few years and touring regularly, with recent stops in China and India. It plans to is-

sue its eighth album this summer and still wants to perform in Bangladesh and Nepal.

Now in their 40s, with children they take on tour, the men say their youthful ambitions for wider fame have vanished.

"We're busy and happy. We won't try to spend a year in America to crack its market," said guitarist Mikkel Lentz.



In this publicity image released by 20th Century Fox, animated characters, from left, Raphael, voiced by George Lopez, Blu, voiced by Jesse Eisenberg, and Jewel, voiced by Anne Hathaway, are shown in a scene from "Rio." AP

## 'Rio' nests at No. 1 with \$26.3M second weekend

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Anne Hathaway and Jesse Eisenberg's animated hit "Rio" remains perched at No. 1 with a \$26.3 million second weekend, coming in just ahead of the \$25.1 million debut for "Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family."

The top 20 movies at U.S. and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by Hollywood.com are:

1. **"Rio,"** Fox, \$26,323,321, 3,842 locations, \$6,851 average, \$80,806,562, two weeks.
2. **"Tyler Perry's Madea's Big Happy Family,"** Lionsgate, \$25,068,677, 2,288 locations, \$10,957 average, \$25,068,677, one week.
3. **"Water For Elephants,"** Fox, \$16,842,353, 2,817 locations, \$5,979 average, \$16,842,353, one week.
4. **"Hop,"** Universal, \$12,185,905, 3,616 locations, \$3,370 average, \$100,224,905, four weeks.
5. **"Scream 4,"** Weinstein Co., \$7,030,747, 3,314 locations, \$2,122 average, \$31,035,010, two weeks.
6. **"African Cats,"** Disney, \$6,003,200, 1,220 locations, \$4,921 average, \$6,003,200, one week.
7. **"Soul Surfer,"** Sony, \$5,436,868, 2,240 locations, \$2,427 average, \$28,502,151, three weeks.
8. **"Hanna,"** Focus, \$5,276,801, 2,384 lo-

- cations, \$2,213 average, \$31,717,987, three weeks.
9. **"Insidious,"** Film District, \$5,207,622, 2,130 locations, \$2,445 average, \$44,001,416, four weeks.
10. **"Source Code,"** Summit, \$5,091,347, 2,363 locations, \$2,155 average, \$44,692,591, four weeks.
11. **"Arthur,"** Warner Bros., \$4,066,109, 2,770 locations, \$1,468 average, \$29,216,091, three weeks.
12. **"Limitless,"** Relativity Media, \$2,664,461, 1,363 locations, \$1,955 average, \$74,002,055, six weeks.
13. **"The Conspirator,"** Roadside Attractions, \$2,190,440, 849 locations, \$2,580 average, \$6,893,123, two weeks.
14. **"The Lincoln Lawyer,"** Lionsgate, \$1,789,519, 1,220 locations, \$1,467 average, \$53,381,451, six weeks.
15. **"Your Highness,"** Universal, \$1,706,590, 1,610 locations, \$1,060 average, \$19,764,545, three weeks.
16. **"Win Win,"** Fox Searchlight, \$1,107,961, 388 locations, \$2,856 average, \$6,630,650, six weeks.
17. **"Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules,"** Fox, \$933,540, 928 locations, \$1,006 average, \$50,290,531, five weeks.
18. **"Atlas Shrugged: Part 1,"** Rocky Mountain Pictures, \$881,034, 465 locations, \$1,895 average, \$3,096,815, two weeks.
19. **"Jane Eyre,"** Focus, \$782,372, 319 locations, \$2,453 average, \$7,913,203, seven weeks.
20. **"Born to be Wild,"** Warner Bros., \$652,739, 208 locations, \$3,138 average, \$3,075,211, three weeks.

## Puerto Rico painter Jose Torres Martino dies at 94

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)**—Jose Antonio Torres Martino, a Puerto Rican painter and writer who helped create and expand art and journalism institutions on the U.S. island, died Friday. He was 94.

Torres died at Pavia Hospital in San Juan after a prolonged illness, said Margarita Fernandez Zavala, a close friend and an art professor at the University of Puerto Rico in Bayamon. She said she wasn't sure about the specific illness.

Torres was born in 1916 in Puerto Rico's second largest city, Ponce, whose setting on the island's southern coast inspired one of his more famous abstract paintings.

His voice was well-known to Puerto Ricans from the 1940s through the 1980s, Fernandez said.

"He was one of the pioneers of radio and television on the island," she said. "He was a man of elegant words."

But Torres was a private man who did not seek the spotlight, she added.

"He was soft and sweet and tender," Fernandez said. "Everyone sought his opinion, something that he didn't necessarily like."

Torres grew up in Puerto Rico, then briefly studied design and painting at the Pratt Institute in New York before economic troubles forced him to return home, where he began to work as a radio journalist.

At age 22, he helped found the island's first magazine dedicated to radio journalism while he continued to paint in his free time.

Torres became a full-time painter in the mid-1940s and returned to New

York, where he exhibited his work and resumed his studies. After traveling through Europe, he returned to Puerto Rico and helped found the School of Plastic Arts and the Center for Puerto Rican Art.

In 1951, he co-founded the Press and Television Guild and later served as its president. He also created the graphic arts workshop at the University of Puerto Rico and later became a columnist for the newspaper El Nuevo Dia.

"Ponce and Puerto Rico are losing a multifaceted man, a great artist who dominated expression through his word and his hand," Agustin Arteaga, director of the Ponce Museum of Art, said in a statement.

Torres is survived by a son and two granddaughters.



## Cast of 'Glee' gets NY welcome from mayor

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Talk about a cool class trip.

The cast of "Glee" is in New York City this week to film its season two finale episode, and Mayor Michael Bloomberg welcomed the stars of the

Fox show with a news conference outside the Gershwin Theater, one of its filming locations.

"Mayors don't get a lot of time to watch television, so I don't know much about this season's plot but actually it

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg speaks at a press conference alongside cast members from the television show "Glee" in New York, Monday, April 25, 2011. AP

would be great to see what happens with Finn and Rachel," joked Bloomberg, referring to two of the characters on the show who are in an on-again, off-again romantic relationship.

In the final episode of the season, the students will go to New York for a national glee club competition. The show is to film all week long in the city, at landmarks such as Central Park and Lincoln Center.

"We've been filming 'Glee' in Los Angeles for two years. We've never met the mayor there," said one of the show's executive producers, Dante Di Loreto.

Dozens of fans lined up outside the theater to get a glimpse of actors from the show. Cory Monteith and Mark Salling were among those who appeared at the news conference.

The "Glee" season finale airs May 24 at 9 p.m. Eastern.



# Eminem to release EP with rapper Royce da 5'9"

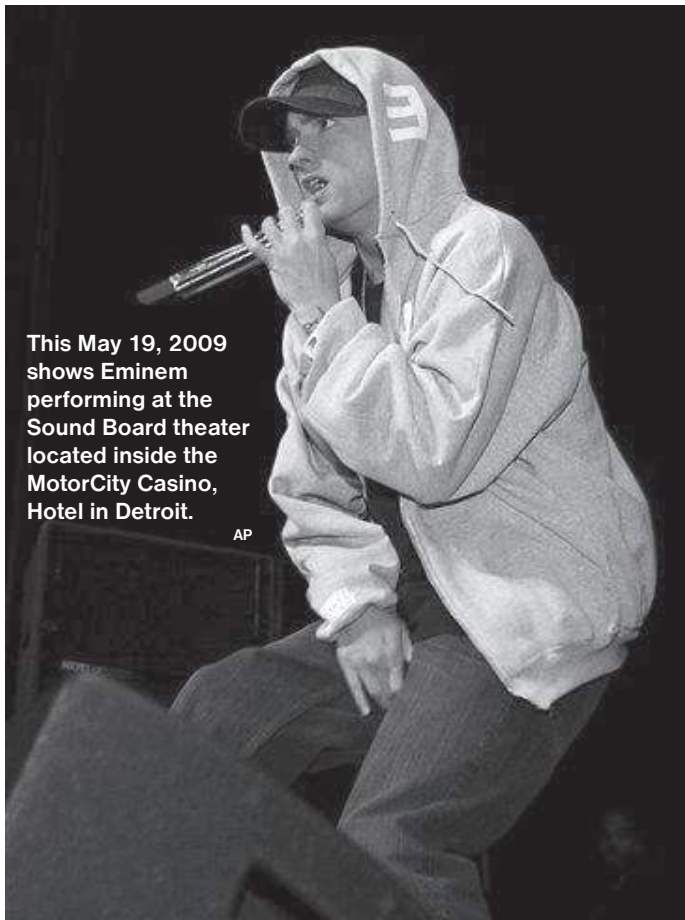
**DETROIT (AP)**—Eminem and Royce da 5'9" are back recording together more than a decade after the Detroit rappers first joined forces.

The pair, who met at a concert in their home city in 1997 and worked together under the name Bad Meets Evil, announced Monday that they're coming out with an EP of new material in June.

One of the songs they recorded in the late 1990s, called "Bad Meets Evil," appeared on Eminem's major label debut, "The Slim Shady LP."

According to a news release distributed Monday by Interscope Records, the rappers pursued solo careers after their initial work together and became embroiled in a feud.

In the years since, Eminem's career has reached superstar levels with tens of millions of records sold and Grammy and Academy Award wins. Royce da 5'9" also has seen success, but on a much smaller scale, with



This May 19, 2009 shows Eminem performing at the Sound Board theater located inside the MotorCity Casino, Hotel in Detroit.

AP

three of his albums charting in the R&B/hip-hop category.

The two mended fences, however, following the shooting death of their mutual friend and fellow rapper Proof in 2006.

"Royce and I started hanging out again and inevitably that led us back into the studio," Eminem said in a statement. "At first we were just seeing where it went without any real goal in mind, but the songs started to come together crazy, so here we are."

Royce da 5'9" said he was "excited to see this project come to fruition considering the long lapse in time between when we worked before and now."

The new material will be released June 14 on Shady/Interscope Records. Mr. Porter, who is a member of Eminem's rap group D12, was a producer on the EP.

Interscope said its title will be unveiled "soon."

And, for the record, Royce da 5'9" is the Bad half of the duo, and Eminem is the Evil.

## Sister looking to hook up needs to wise up first

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



**DEAR ABBY:** I recently had a conversation with my married sister that left me speechless. While making plans to visit me for a few days, she asked if I could "hook her up" with any guys. I was shocked. Not only was it awkward, it left me feeling disgusted.

If a person is unhappy in his or her marriage, shouldn't the marriage be ended BEFORE looking for someone else? (By the way, my brother-in-law thinks they have a great marriage.)

A few days later, my sister informed me that her "boyfriend" had broken things off with her. I am dumbfounded! My sister will be coming to spend some time with me soon, and I'm sure this subject is bound to come up again. How do I handle a situation I find so offensive?

DUMBSTRUCK DOWN SOUTH

**DEAR DUMBSTRUCK:** Handle it by telling your sister exactly what you have written to me. That should get the message across succinctly.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm a 15-year-old girl with five younger siblings. It's tough to get along with everyone, but my 8-year-old sister, "Annie," is especially difficult. She doesn't get along with anyone.

Annie steals constantly. This has been going on since she could walk. She steals jewelry, makeup, toys, books and money. The only way to get these things back is by searching her room. Our relatives say she'll grow out of this, but it happens every day. She destroys and breaks the things she steals -- including projects and homework.

My parents have tried everything—taking her things, grounding her, taking away privileges—yet Annie doesn't stop. She lies and becomes frantic, and I'm worried something is wrong. None of us have ever behaved like her. What should we do?

WORRIED SISTER IN NEW JERSEY

**DEAR WORRIED SISTER:** The behavior you have described could be symptoms of a serious emotional disturbance. It won't be corrected until your parents understand what's driving your sister to steal and lie. If Annie hasn't already been evaluated by her pediatrician and a mental health professional, it should be done as soon as possible. Please show this to your parents.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I recently agreed to support my neighbor as she participated in a charity walk for breast cancer. Through a mutual friend I found out that my neighbor rode a free bus for a portion of the 13.1-mile walk. She has since tried to collect the "donation." I have politely declined to pay, due to the circumstances. I feel I am justified since the donation was predicated on her completion of the walk. What do you think?

STICKLER IN COLORADO

**DEAR STICKLER:** Is it possible that your neighbor rode the bus a portion of the way because she was unable to make it through the 13.1-mile walk? For heaven's sake, it's not as if she would be pocketing the money. Give her the donation in the form of a check made out to the charity. It's for a worthy cause—and tax-deductible.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR READERS:** Today is Administrative Professionals Day, the day we pause to acknowledge and thank the diligent, caring, hardworking men and women whose efforts make the workplace function smoothly and efficiently for their employers. Orchids to all of you. Speaking as one lucky employer, I know I am truly blessed.

XXX ABBY

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

## Fieri joins Calif. lawmakers to push family meals

**SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)**—Guy Fieri was back on the road Monday, this time not to find hole-in-the-wall eateries but to support California politicians telling parents to cook with their children every Sunday.

Standing outside the state Capitol, the celebrity chef lamented the rise of drive-thrus and microwave dinners in place of sit-down, home-cooked meals.

Fieri, known for his boisterous style in the Food Network's "Diners, Drive-ins and Dives," said that by making cooking a shared activity, parents could bring their families closer together and encourage healthy eating habits in children.

"Let them stand there and work the saute pan, let them do the plate up, let them deliver it to the family," said Fieri, sporting his trademark platinum blond hair, cowboy boots and sunglasses worn on the back of his head. "Start them off slow. Edu-

cate them as you go."

He went on to visit the state Senate, which adopted a resolution urging the weekly meals, as well as the Assembly, where the resolution now awaits action.

The resolution by state Sen. Anthony Cannella, R-Ceres, follows a 2008 initiative that Fieri helped draft to label the second Saturday in May "Cook With Your Kids Day."

Fieri owns several restaurants in California and hosts two shows on the Food Network and the NBC game show "Minute to Win It."

Chef Guy Fieri, the host of several food and reality TV shows, hands his son, Rider, 5, an Angry Bird toy following a news conference where Fieri discussed a Senate resolution he is promoting calling on parents take time to to cook with their children, during a visit to the Capitol in Sacramento, Calif., Monday, April 25, 2011.

AP



## Human cannonball dies in UK stunt accident



A human cannonball enters the barrel moments before he died after a safety net failed during the stunt at the Kent County Showground in Detling, south eastern England, Monday April 25, 2011.

**LONDON (AP)**—British police say a man has died after a safety net gave way during a human cannonball performance at a "daredevil" stunt show in southern England.

Police in Kent said Monday the show was canceled after the 23-year-old died.

They said they believe the death was caused by the safety net "failing to engage," but did not provide further details.

"Scott May's Daredevil Stuntshow" said on its Website that all shows have been canceled "due to unforeseen circumstances." The show has toured the U.K. since 1991, and features Monster Truck destruction, car-crushing and crashes, fire stunts and the human cannonball.

"Hear the twisting metal of the car crashes... Smell the burning rubber of the full throttle motorcycle stunts," the website promises.

## Johnston to pen tell-all book on Palin family

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)**—Levi Johnston is promising to set the record straight about the Palin family.

Touchstone Publishing has a fall publication date for Johnston's book, "Deer in the Headlights: My Life in Sarah Palin's Crosshairs."

Johnston fathered a child with Bristol Palin, the daughter of the former Alaska governor, when they were teenagers. The pregnancy was announced days after Palin was selected as the 2008 GOP vice presidential candidate. The couple broke up after the birth of their son, Tripp, and reconciled briefly.

He's had a contentious relationship with the Palins.

Johnston says the

book, first reported by People.com Monday, will "tell the truth" about that relationship, including his "sense of Sarah and my perplexing fall from grace." He says he's doing it "for me, for my boy Tripp and the country."



AP

In this Sept. 3, 2008 file photo, Levi Johnston, left, is seen with his girlfriend Bristol Palin at the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn.

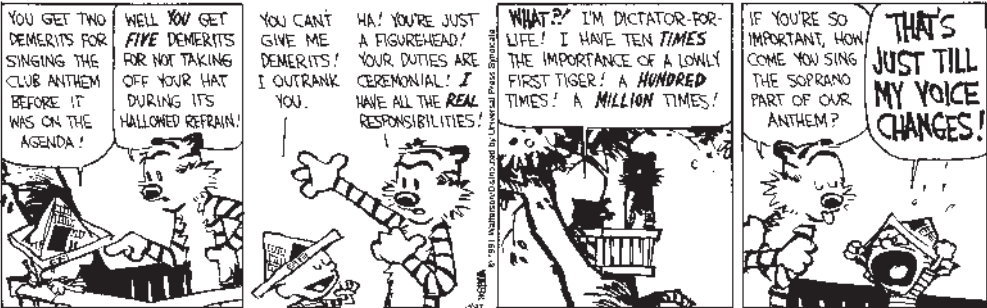


Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

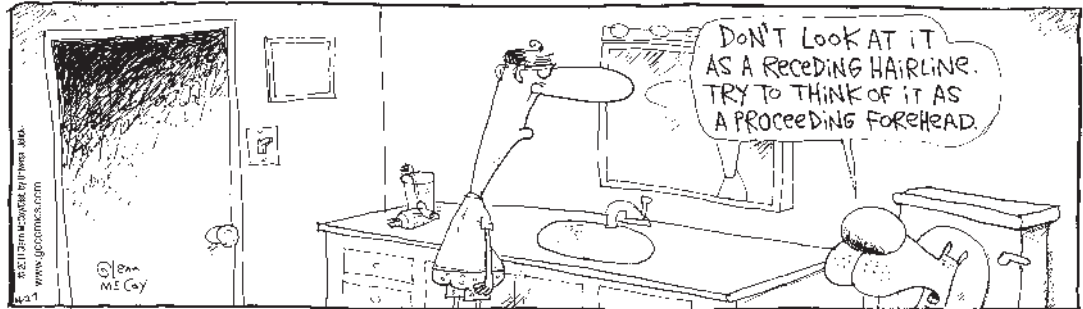
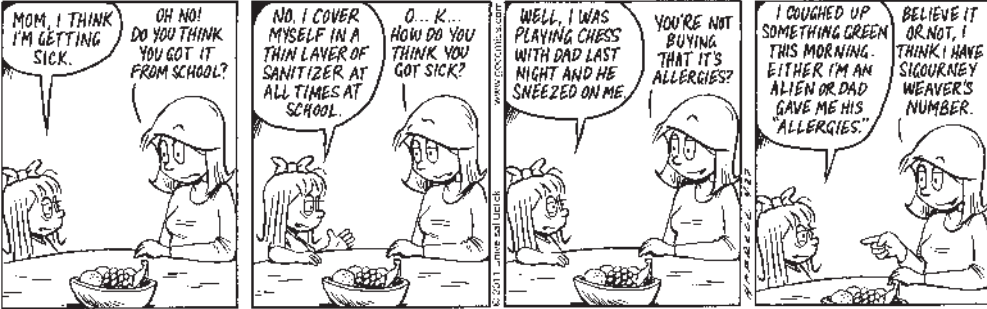
By Jim Davis



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By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

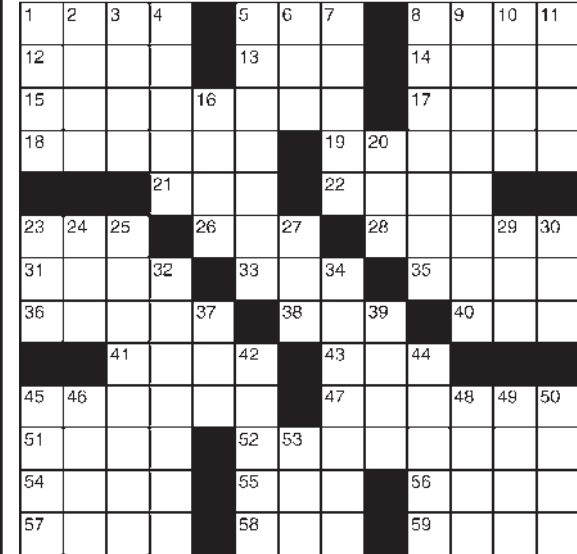
ACROSS 38 Have a bug 5 Drunkard 8 Mac-Donald's place 12 Year-end celebra- tion 13 Lawyers' org. 14 Dunk-able treat 15 Hiker's energy source 17 Bellow 18 Mingle (with) 19 Sequen- tially 21 Pitching stat 22 Replaces divots 23 Fool 26 Wet wriggler 28 Handle skillfully 31 Comesti- bles 33 Lair 35 Inside picture? 36 Potato, for one

38 Have a bug 40 That woman 41 Harvest 43 Mai — (cocktail) 45 Asian capital 47 Bucca- neer 51 Brewery products 52 Tempo- rary solution 54 French meat entree 55 Trojans' sch. 56 Sea eagle 57 Charon's river

38 "A mouse!" 59 Iditarod team DOWN 1 Legend 2 Modern money 3 Thick chunk 4 River through Paris 5 Did a springy Brazilian 6 Japanese dance sash 7 Urban fleet 8 New Jersey base 9 Wake-up calls 10 Ca- boose's place 11 Early hours 16 Tradition- al tales 20 Promptly 23 Astern 24 Not worth a — 25 AA goal 27 Meadow 29 — -di- dah 30 Coloring agent 32 Discard 34 Argue over trifles 37 "Norma —" 39 Secular 42 Irritate 44 Annoyed 45 Sailors 46 Greatly 48 Roundish do 49 Chime sound 50 Former partners 53 Work with

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterdays answer 4-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Wil- liam Moseley, 24; Sheena Easton, 52; Ace Freh- ley, 60; Casey Kasem, 79

Happy Birthday: Choose projects you know you can handle and complete. Making promises and taking on tasks that are beyond you will end in disaster. This year, it's better to do less with finesse. Set attainable goals and you will receive greater rewards and opportunities in the future. Your numbers are 7, 19, 24, 26, 31, 34, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): It's im- portant that you tend to your own work instead of taking on responsibilities that don't belong to you. Emotional blackmail will be difficult to handle. You'll have excellent ideas and will do well in competitive challenges. \*\*\*

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll be exceptionally intuitive, especially when dealing with people who want something from you. Your imagination will help you come up with solutions. Short trips will pay off. Expect the unexpected when it comes to love. \*\*\*\*

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll face opposition if you push your ideas on oth- ers. Be observant and save your com- ments for another time. Focus on whatever will help you get ahead personally and professionally. Financial losses are likely if you insist on taking a risk. \*\*

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your imagination will wander. Talk to people from different backgrounds and you will get a better sense of where you might like to travel. Learning will highlight your day. \*\*\*\*\*

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Professional opportunities are present if you push for what you want. Don't be afraid to let oth- ers know your capabilities. Love and romance are in the stars and can lead to a change if you discuss your plans for the future. \*\*\*

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Contracts, agreements and money matters should take top priority. Making a commitment will enable you to take on a project to help you achieve personal goals. An old responsibility will surface, bringing about a last-minute change of plans. \*\*\*

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take better care of yourself. Too much of anything will lead to fatigue, confusion or loss. Partnerships must be handled with respect and caution. Interference from colleagues and peers will cause you to fall short of your goals. \*\*\*

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Plan to make home improvements. Sizing down can make your life easier and give you a much better outlook. Once you feel you are on top of your situation, you will begin to see the direc- tion that best supports your lifestyle. \*\*\*\*\*

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't believe what outsiders say or you will end up in trouble with someone you should have trusted and didn't. Someone from your past may meddle in your affairs. Make life easier by sticking close to home and family. \*\*

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Com- munication will be difficult with people who don't share your opinion. Stick

EUGENIA LAST THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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close to those you know you can trust. Delays can be expected if you are traveling or waiting for answers. Don't give in to demands being made. \*\*\*\*

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A joint venture can turn out exceptionally well if you are ready to dedicate time, money and hard work. Reworking an old idea to better fit the economic climate we live in will turn out well and will bring financial gains. \*\*\*

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Emotional deception is apparent. Own up to any- thing you might have done to contribute to things going wrong. A problem with your per- sonal papers is apparent and must be sorted out before you make any sort of change in your life, personally or professionally. \*\*\*

Birthday Baby: You have high energy and plen- ty of creative talent. You have a vivid imagina- tion and are quick to find solutions.

Eugenia's Web sites: [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confi- dential consultations, [myspace.com/eugenialast](http://myspace.com/eugenialast) for Eugenia's blog, [astroadvice.com](http://astroadvice.com) for fun

SUDOKU Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterdays SUDOKU Answer

4	8	1	3	6	9	7	2	5
2	6	3	7	1	5	4	9	8
9	5	7	2	8	4	6	3	1
3	4	9	5	7	1	8	6	2
6	1	2	9	4	8	5	7	3
8	7	5	6	2	3	9	1	4
1	2	8	4	9	7	3	5	6
5	9	6	8	3	2	1	4	7
7	3	4	1	5	6	2	8	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/27 ©2010 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — hori- zontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THAI GREEN CURRY Solution: 9 letters

D V R A D S C U M I N K E P S C E D A W I C O R I A N D E R O G P E G I N G E R I E I P A N E E P P U E E A S M L E P T S T P L O T S C I A I A A E R I A A E S H H U E H N L U R O S B S A U I C T C U A A T C M T L T V Z B S E T T J G H O I E E E E H E G S E G A N E R L N S S S A R N R A S S A N D C T I F E O C R E A M L T S E Y F O C I T L A S E I A I E I G O U N L I S A B P N G C M R D A O Y C I P S I N E I E I F S S A R G N O M E L R O I L S

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Yesterdays Answer: Approved

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Saipan Tribune

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**BANKPACIFIC, LTD.,** ] **CIVIL ACTION**  
Plaintiff, ] **NO. 10-0246**  
vs. ] **NOTICE OF SALE**  
] **TRACY LYNN**  
] **SONGSONG**  
] **TAIMANAO**  
] **n/k/a TRACY**  
] **TAIMANAO INOKE,**  
Defendant. ]

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order of Sale issued by the Court in this matter on April 17, 2011, I will sell, at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Lot No. 011 G 795, containing an area of 909 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 17, dated December 3, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-4285, dated December 9, 1993, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

**Date, Time and Place of Sale.** The sale will be held on 12th day of May, 2011, at the hour of 11:00 a.m., at Carlsmith Building, Isa Drive, Capitol Hill, P.O. Box 5241, Saipan, MP 96950-5241. The sale will be opened to general public.

**Terms and Conditions of Sale.** The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED: Saipan, MP, April 18, 2011.

/s/ Vincent J. Seman  
VINCENT J. SEMAN, F0361  
Attorneys for Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**HUIMAO YU** ] **FCD-DI**  
Petitioner, ] **CIVIL ACTION**  
vs. ] **NO. 11-0093**  
] **SUMMONS**  
**KELLY LICKISAP** ] **FOR**  
Respondent, ] **PUBLICATION**

**TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:**

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 502592 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 12th day of April, 2011.

/s/ Clerk of Court

Victor T. Tonga and  
Phiangkwan J. Tonga  
P.O. Box 501143, Chalan Piao  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel. No: (670) 235-5926

PRO SE  
**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF** ] **FCD AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0168**

**ELINA-MANUHIL MADAQ,** ] **NOTICE OF HEARING**  
Minor Child,

By  
**VICTOR TONGA AND PHIANGKWAN TONGA,**  
Petitioners.

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on May 23, 2011, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 217A before Associated Judge Perry B. Inos.

Bernadita A. Sablan  
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

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**Classified Ads**

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

**WHATZIT?**

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

**sodium chloride KN**

Find today's solution in this section

Pastimes

By Bill Waterson **Garfield**

By Glenn McCoy

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REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA



# Judge lifts NFL lockout, league vows appeal



MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—

After seven weeks of bitter back and forth, failed talks and growing uncertainty about the 2011 season, a federal judge has ordered an immediate end to the NFL lockout.

But there are many hurdles to clear and questions to answer before pro football is actually back on track.

U.S. District Judge Susan Richard Nelson gave the players an early victory Monday in their fight with the owners over how to divide the \$9 billion business, granting their injunction request to lift the lockout.

The fate of next season, however, remained in limbo: The NFL responded by filing a notice of appeal questioning whether Nelson exceeded her jurisdiction, seeking relief from the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis. Hours later, the league filed a motion for an expedited stay, meaning it wants Nelson to put her ruling on hold to let the appeals process play out.

What happens in the next few days is murky, too.

Will players burst through the weight room doors at team facilities and start studying their playbooks? Or will they keep to the mostly individual routines they've developed since the start of the NFL's first work stoppage since 1987?

"We're in a 'Wild West' right now. Football is back to business, but guess what? There's no rules. There's a lot of positive to that, but there's also a lot of negatives," said linebacker Ben Leber, one of the 10 plaintiffs in the still-pending antitrust lawsuit filed against the league when the union broke up last month.

Bills safety George Wilson confirmed that the NFLPA emailed players late Monday suggesting they report to work on Tuesday. He said players were told they should be granted access under normal circumstances and if they are denied access the teams would be in violation of the judge's ruling.

"We have received inquiry from a number of players and agents. We have simply responded and told them we don't see anything wrong with it," NFL Players Association spokesman George Atallah said in a text message to The Associated Press. "Players are organizing stuff on their own ..."

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said any player who shows up to team facilities will be allowed in.

"If a player comes to the facility, he will be treated courteously and with respect," Aiello said in an e-mail.

Nelson's ruling was a stern rebuke of the NFL's case, hardly a surprise given the court's history with the league and her pattern of questioning during a hearing here three weeks ago in St. Paul, Minn.

In a room packed with lawyers, players and league officials, Nelson politely but persistently questioned NFL lawyer David Boies about his repeated argument that she shouldn't have jurisdiction over a labor dispute with an unfair negotiation charge against the players pending with the National Labor Relations Board.

In her ruling, Nelson rejected that contention. She recognized the NFL Players Association's decision to "de-unionize" as legitimate because it has "serious consequences" for the players. Nelson even referenced her col-



In this Feb. 6, 2011, file photo, Pittsburgh Steelers' Brett Keisel takes a photo on the field before NFL football's Super Bowl XLV between the Steelers and the Green Bay Packers in Arlington, Texas. A federal judge on Monday, April 25, 2011, ordered an end to the NFL lockout, giving the players an early victory in their fight with the owners over how to divide the \$9 billion business. U.S. District Judge Susan Richard Nelson said she was swayed by the players' argument that that the lockout, now in its second month, was causing irreparable harm to their careers.

league, U.S. District Judge David Doty, who has frequently ruled for the players in the past. Not only did she declare that players are likely to suffer harm by the lockout, a legal requirement for granting the injunction, Nelson wrote that they're already feeling the hurt now.

She cited their short careers, arguing that monetary damages wouldn't be enough relief.

What Nelson didn't do, however,

was tackle the issue of the antitrust lawsuit filed last month when the union broke up. That, she wrote, "must wait another day."

In an opinion piece posted late Monday night on the Wall Street Journal's website, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell wrote that Nelson's ruling "may significantly alter professional football as we know it. ... By blessing this negotiating tactic (recognizing the players' right to dissolve their union),

the decision may endanger one of the most popular and successful sports leagues in history."

NFLPA executive director DeMaurice Smith said players were eager to resume court-ordered mediation to resolve the fight.

"My hope is really is that there's somebody on the other side who loves football as much as our players and fans do," he said.

If the injunction is upheld, the NFL

must resume business in some fashion.

It could invoke the 2010 rules for free agency, meaning players would need six seasons of service before becoming unrestricted free agents when their contracts expire; previously, it was four years. The requirement for restricted free agents would be four years rather than the three years before 2010. There also was no salary cap in 2010, meaning teams could spend as much - or as little - as they wanted.

And the NFL would need to determine whether offseason workouts can be held while the appeal is pending.

Owners imposed the lockout after talks broke down March 11 and the players disbanded their union. A group of players filed the injunction request along with a class-action antitrust lawsuit against the league.

Jim Quinn, an attorney for the players, said the pressure is on the league.

"They better act quickly, because as of right now there's no stay and, presumably, players could sign with teams," Quinn said. "There are no guidelines as of right now, so they have to put something in place quickly."

In a statement, the NFL again argued its belief that "federal law bars injunctions in labor disputes" and expressed confidence the appeals court would agree.

"But we also believe that this dispute will inevitably end with a collective bargaining agreement, which would be in the best interests of players, clubs and fans. We can reach a fair agreement only if we continue negotiations toward that goal," the NFL said.

The NFL has argued that stopping the lockout would open all 32 teams up to additional antitrust claims simply for working together to solve the labor dispute. Antitrust claims carry triple damages for any harm proven, meaning hundreds of millions of dollars are at stake.

In the request for the expedited stay, the NFL argued a "reasonable prospect of success" on appeal.

League attorneys wrote that without a stay, teams would be forced to choose "between the irreparable harm of unrestricted free agency or the irreparable harm of more treble-damages lawsuits," pain that would be felt immediately. They also contended a hold on the injunction is in the public interest, letting the appeals process play out before "there are fundamental and irreversible changes in the relationships between and among" the two sides.

The relationship between the two sides has been in rough shape for months.

Nelson heard arguments on the injunction at a hearing on April 6 and ordered the two sides to resume mediation while she was considering her decision. The owners and players, who failed to reach consensus after 16 days of mediated talks earlier this year, met over four days with a federal magistrate but did not announce any progress on solving the impasse.

They are not scheduled to meet again until May 16, four days after Doty holds a hearing on whether players should get damages in their related fight with owners over some \$4 billion in broadcast revenue.

Osi Umenyiora, the New York Giants defensive end and one of the plaintiffs, called the ruling a "win for the players and for the fans" in a statement.

## Marlins take close win off Dodger errors



MIAMI (AP)—The Florida Marlins were gifted a 5-4 win over

Los Angeles in the National League on Monday when the Dodgers committed two errors with two outs in the ninth.

The comeback was helped along by shortstop Hanley Ramirez, who was mired in a 2-for-27 slump and was left out of the starting lineup. He came in as a pinch hitter with two outs in the ninth and Florida trailing 4-3, and his single put runners at first and third.

Scott Cousins grounder off Jonathan Broxton (1-1) scooted under the glove of shortstop Jamey Carroll for an error to score the tying run.

Chris Coghlan was then intentionally walked to load the bases, and Omar Infante lined a pitch. L.A. left fielder Jerry Sands started in, braked and leaped, and the ball sailed over his glove.

Florida's Brian Sanches (3-0) extended his scoreless streak to start the season to 13 2-3 innings with a perfect ninth.

### Pirates 4, Nationals 2

In Pittsburgh, Brandon Wood's two-run double in his first game for Pittsburgh was part of a four-run fourth inning that helped the Pirates defeat Washington.

Wood, picked up on waivers from the Los Angeles Angels on Friday, gave the Pirates their first lead.

Pittsburgh starter Paul Maholm (1-3) retired the final 13 batters he faced in seven strong innings.

### Rockies 5, Cubs 3

In Chicago, it certainly wasn't Esmil Rogers' pitching that was the key to

the Colorado Rockies' 5-3 victory over the Cubs on a blustery and chilly Monday night.

It was Rogers' bat that helped decide the game.

Rogers led off the fifth with the score tied at 3, and put down a near-perfect bunt that Cubs third baseman Jeff Baker charged in on and fielded, but his throw to first was too late to get the Rockies pitcher.

### Reds 9, Brewers 5

In Milwaukee, Jay Bruce hit a two-run homer, Bronson Arroyo pitched effectively into the seventh and the Cincinnati Reds used a six-run third inning to beat the Milwaukee Brewers 9-5 on Monday night.

Already ahead 1-0, the Reds sent 11 batters to the plate in the third, holding Chris Narveson (1-1) to his shortest outing in 38 career starts.

Cincinnati had eight hits in the inning one night after managing just four in a shutout loss to St. Louis.

### Diamondbacks 4, Phillies 0

In Phoenix, New father Ian Kennedy threw a three-hitter in the first complete game of his major league career, outpitching Cliff Lee to lift the Arizona Diamondbacks to a 4-0 victory Monday night that ended the Philadelphia Phillies' five-game winning streak.

The Diamondbacks snapped a four-game skid as they opened a 10-game home stand after being swept in three games by the Mets in New York.

Kennedy (3-1) struck out 10 - including Jimmy Rollins to end the game—and walked none. He had come home early from the team's

trip for the delivery of he and his wife's first child, Nora Rose, at 2:04 a.m. on Sunday.

### Blue Jays 6, Rangers 4

In Arlington, Corey Patterson and Jose Bautista homered on consecutive pitches in the fifth inning to help power the Toronto Blue Jays to a 6-4 win over the Texas Rangers in the American League on Monday.

Texas pitcher Colby Lewis (1-3) gave up both those shots, and another two-run homer in the same inning by Juan Rivera. He conceded six runs and walked four in five innings.

### White Sox 2, Yankees 0

In New York, Phil Humber held the Yankees hitless until the seventh, guiding Chicago to an impressive win.

The White Sox, who won for only the second time in 12 games, snapped a 23-inning scoreless drought in the fourth when Carlos Quentin doubled and scored on Adam Dunn's grounder. Chicago added a run in the ninth after a popup fell behind the mound.

### Angels 5, Athletics 0

In Anaheim, Jered Weaver struck out 10 and won his sixth straight start in the Los Angeles Angels' 5-0 victory over the Oakland Athletics on Monday night.

Weaver pitched his second straight complete game to help Los Angeles snap a four-game losing streak.

He allowed seven hits, walked one and allowed only one runner as far as third base, lowering his ERA to 0.99.

Oakland was shut out for the third time in five games.



# Grizzlies grab first ever 3-1 series lead over Spurs



**MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—** Whatever Memphis coach Lionel Hollins said to his team at halftime worked very, very well.

The eighth-seeded Grizzlies outscored San Antonio 30-15 in the third quarter, turning a 2-point halftime deficit into a 104-86 rout Monday night of the Spurs for a commanding 3-1 lead in their opening series.

"It was an incredible performance in the third and fourth quarter," Hollins said. "We outscored them 30-15 and from the second quarter on, our defense just kept getting better and better."

San Antonio led 50-48 at halftime, and Grizzlies guard O.J. Mayo said Hollins lit such a fire in his team with telling them exactly what he wanted them to do that they couldn't wait to get onto the court.

"We're not playing too well in so many words," Mayo said. "That's the clean version. And we need to get it together, and play with a lot of energy and play like we're a desperate team. All year he's been preaching that the desperate team usually wins, and we didn't look very desperate that first half."

The Grizzlies already had made franchise history by winning their first playoff game in Game 1 and added their first playoff win at home. Now they are a game away from becoming the second eighth seed to knock off a No. 1 seed since the NBA expanded to a best-of-seven series and join the 2007 Golden State Warriors.

"I know a lot of people didn't expect us to be here," Grizzlies guard Mike Conley said. "It's not like we were expected to be up 3-1 at this point. In our locker room, we're just playing it game by game. We want to come into San Antonio looking to end it there. We're focused and want to be able to move onto the next round."

Conley had 15 points and seven assists. Darrell Arthur added 14 points off the bench for Memphis. Tony Allen had 12, Randolph and Mayo 11 apiece.

These are the same Spurs that won 61 games in the regular season. They opened up very energetic, shooting well and even had their first halftime lead in this series.

They finished the game with their starters on the bench for the final 5:43 with Spurs coach Gregg Popovich trying to rest them for Game 5 on Wednesday night in San Antonio. Now the Spurs will be trying to avoid their second 4-1 opening series loss in three seasons.

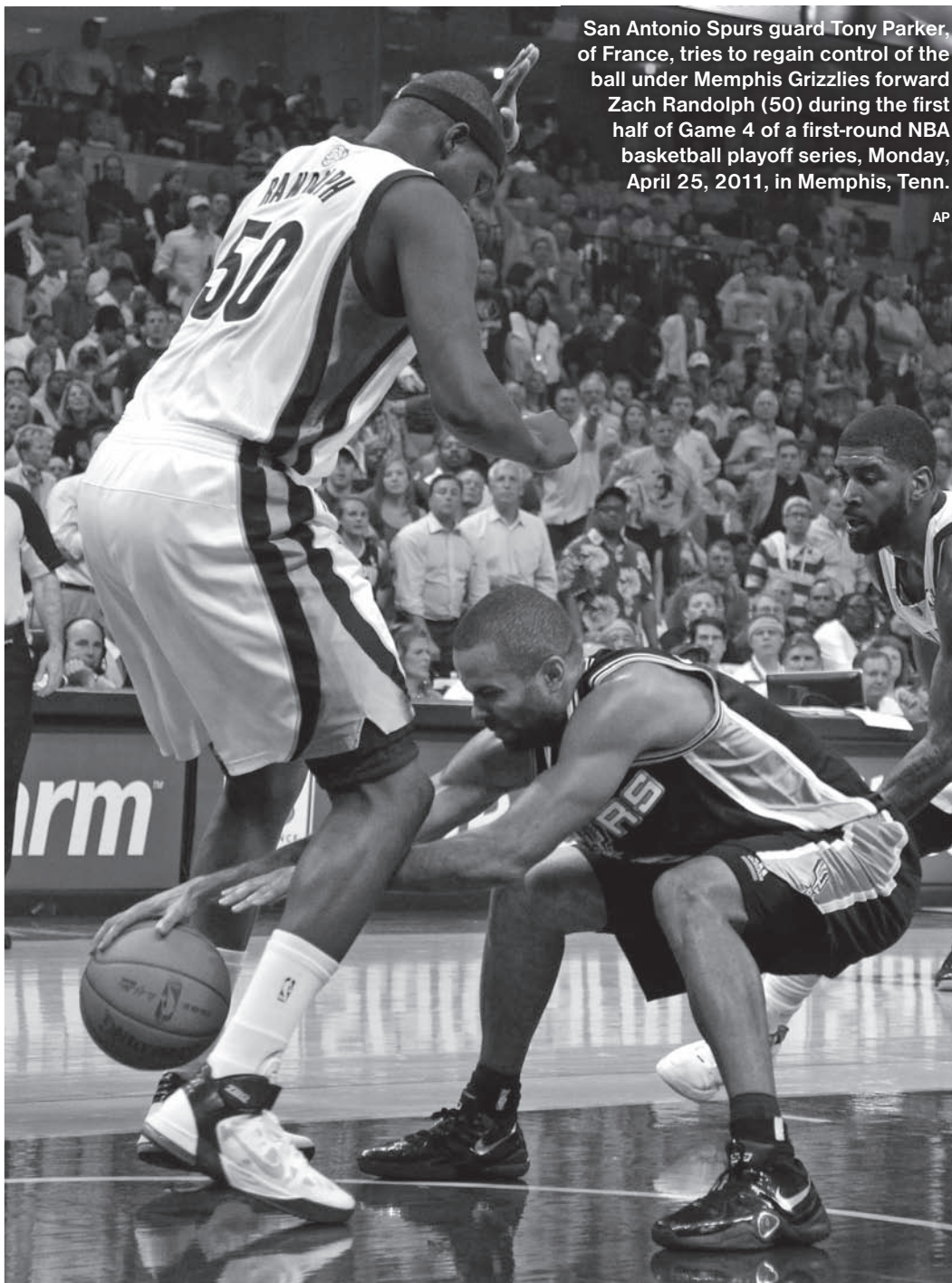
"Obviously, the whole team is very frustrated," Spurs guard Tony Parker said. "I mean we go through a whole season and get that first seed, and now we're just one game away to be eliminated so it's most important for us to focus on Game 5. That's the most important thing to get Game 5 and try to get another chance to get a win here."

Parker led the Spurs with 23 points with only four in the second half. He also had seven turnovers. Manu Ginobili had 14, Gary Neal 11, and George Hill and Tiago Splitter 10 each. Splitter, a rookie from Brazil, had not played previously in this series.

Tim Duncan had six points on his 35th birthday.

The first three games had been tight with Memphis winning by no more than three points. The Spurs won Game 2 by six.

This time it was a rout once the Griz-



San Antonio Spurs guard Tony Parker, of France, tries to regain control of the ball under Memphis Grizzlies forward Zach Randolph (50) during the first half of Game 4 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series, Monday, April 25, 2011, in Memphis, Tenn.

AP

zlies took control by outscoring the Spurs 30-15 in the third quarter for the first time in this series.

Ginobili called the loss surprising and disappointing. He expected the Spurs to bounce back both emotionally and physically after losing Game 3 but saw the Grizzlies have that edge, especially in the second half. Ginobili said he didn't see the fire to come back after the Spurs fell behind by double digits.

"We looked bad. They are a young squad. They are playing at home ... for many of them the first time playing in the playoffs, so they had all the juice and we didn't," Ginobili said.

Memphis opened the second half with a 14-0 run with Gasol's two free throws at 11:04 putting the Grizzlies ahead to stay at 52-50. Sam Young's dunk capped the run at 7:41 of the third for a 62-50 lead. The Spurs, who shot 55.3 percent in the first half, missed their first five shots and were 6 of 15 from the floor. They also had seven turnovers in the quarter.

The Grizzlies had every fan up and waving the rally towels handed out, cranking up the noise with every Spurs' missed shot or mistake. Arthur ended the quarter by hitting a pair of jumpers to put Memphis up 78-65 at the end of the third.

When Arthur dunked at 10:13 of the fourth putting Memphis up 83-67, Popovich took a timeout. It didn't help as Arthur hit a shot at 8:51 pushing the lead to 85-67.

The Grizzlies went up 94-74 on a 3 by Shane Battier who was wide open in

the right corner with 5:43 left. The celebration began in earnest in Memphis.

Popovich credited the Grizzlies with staying aggressive and physical. But he said Memphis played all 48 minutes, while his Spurs played only the first 24. In the third quarter, the Spurs imploded turning the ball over seven times and fouling way too much to give Memphis its first edge at the free throw line in this series.

"They put their foot on our neck and they never let up," Popovich said. "They did a great job."

Memphis already had become only the seventh No. 8 seed to go up 2-1 in the NBA playoffs since the league expanded the postseason to 16 teams in 1983-84, and the Grizzlies are just the third team to do it since the first round expanded to best-of-seven for the 2003 playoffs.

## Mavericks 93, Trail Blazers 82

In Dallas, Tyson Chandler is the active, energetic big man the Dallas Mavericks have never had before. He's also a pretty good strategist.

Knowing the season was basically on the line in Game 5 of their first-round series against Portland, Chandler went to coach Rick Carlisle on Monday morning with a suggestion. Instead of always playing on the weak side of the offense, he wanted to move around to try getting more involved and to have a better chance at grabbing rebounds.

Go for it, Carlisle said.

Chandler wound up with 14 points and 20 rebounds, but his most important con-

tribution might've been setting the aggressive, exciting tone the Mavericks needed to bounce back from a devastating loss and beat the Trail Blazers 93-82. Dallas leads the series 3-2, with two days to rest up before trying to close things out in Game 6 on Thursday night in Portland.

"He's got to be active for us, and he knows that," Mavs star Dirk Nowitzki said. "Hyping the crowd, being vocal in the huddle. That's what he's been doing for us all year long. If he keeps playing like that, with energy, we'll be OK."

The Mavs were fresh off blowing a 23-point lead over the final 14 minutes of Game 4. Instead of having the Trail Blazers on the brink of elimination, they'd given the No. 7 seed new hope of pulling off the upset. Carlisle called it a must-win, a nod to Dallas being 0-4 in Portland this season and to the club having lost eight straight playoff road games.

Between Chandler's new role and a healthy use of a zone defense, the Mavs again found themselves up by double-digits early in the fourth quarter. Only this time they were able to protect it, forcing 10 straight misses and playing smart on offense. Although Dallas' shooting touch was off - the Mavs missed their first 10 3-point tries of the second half - they got to the foul line and won the rebounding battle.

## Nuggets 104, Thunder 101

In Denver, Ty Lawson scored a career playoff-high 27 points and J.R. Smith and Danilo Gallinari hit clutch shots down the stretch to help Denver beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 104-101 on Monday night as the Nuggets avoided a first-round sweep.

The series resumes Wednesday night with Game 5 in Oklahoma City.

The Nuggets still face a huge challenge in trying to become the first NBA team ever to overcome a 3-0 series deficit, but they finally found a formula for beating their nemesis.

Oklahoma City had beaten Denver five times this month, the Nuggets unable to figure out All-Stars Kevin Durant, Russell Westbrook and their amazing supporting cast.

Not on this night.

In denying the Thunder their first playoff series win since moving from Seattle in 2008, the Nuggets went to the hoop better than they had all series and relied on the smooth touch of Gallinari, who totaled just 13 points in the previous two games but finished with 18 Monday night to counter Durant's 31 points and Westbrook's 30.

For the first time all series, nobody really stepped up to help the Thunder's All-Star duo.

## Rose says he'll play in Game 5

**DEERFIELD, Ill. (AP)—**It would probably take a broken bone for Derrick Rose to miss a playoff game, so consider this good news for the Chicago Bulls.

His sprained left ankle is just that —sprained.

Rose plans to suit up for Game 5 on Tuesday when the Bulls try again to close out their first-round series with the Indiana Pacers.

"It's getting better every day," he said Monday. "I've been getting treatment on it the last couple of days, coming in in the morning, coming in at night, getting treatment. Hopefully, it'll be ready tomorrow. It's not broken so I'm definitely playing."

The swelling has gone down, and although he plans to get a painkilling shot before the game, he was in flip flops one day after wearing a walking boot. He did sit out Monday's practice, but the Bulls can breathe a little easier knowing that an MRI confirmed there was no major structural damage.

Rose sprained his ankle driving to the basket late in the first quarter of Game 4 on Saturday and wasn't his usual dominant self as the Pacers beat Chicago 89-84 to avoid the sweep, finishing with 15 points and 10 assists. He scored just eight points on 3-for-16 shooting after the injury but wasn't about to use that as an excuse.

"Just missed shots," he said.

"There's no excuses when you're still playing. That's the way I think about it. If I was out there, I should've changed. But I'm going to change some things that I didn't. If anything, I just missed shots. All my shots were short. I twisted my ankle but there are no excuses."

Rose said he was "just off." It was as simple as that.

As for the ankle? He didn't seem too concerned.

"This one is minor, where it takes a couple of days and it's fine," Rose said. "If it was broken, I probably would be panicking or something like that. I'm just happy that the trainers have been making sure I'm getting my treatment and it's coming along fine."

The Bulls, meanwhile, are getting pushed in a big way after a posting a league-leading 62 wins and securing homecourt advantage throughout the playoffs.

They could just as easily be trailing in this series—if not out of it—considering they rallied to win the first three games by a combined 15 points. They made a big run in the closing minutes of Game 4, nearly wiping out a 13-point deficit, but came up short.

A broken play near the end left Carlos Boozer attempting and missing his first 3-pointer since the 2007-08 season and helped keep Indiana's season going. The Pacers see no reason why it has to stop now.



# Tawanpiy's 69 undefeated in RGA April Ace tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Asterio Tawanpiy secured the Refaluwasch Golf Association April Ace as his score was unbeaten in last Saturday's tournament at Coral Ocean Point.

Tawanpiy carded a net 69 during the RGA qualifying tournament at COP on April 10 and when the club had another competition last weekend, no member scored better than 69. Jesse Seman had a similar net 69 in the Saturday event, but tournament rules state that qualifying scores must be beaten not tied to win the monthly plum.

The 7-handicapper Seman was consistent with his game at the Agingan Point course, shooting a 38 on both nines for a gross 76 and first place in the weekend tournament. Adam Hardwicke and Joe Saures shared similar second best net scores of 73, but the former won the tiebreak as he birdied the No. 18 hole. The

4-handicapper Hardwicke fired a 40 and 37 on the front and back nines, respectively, for a gross 77, while the 10-handicapper Saures logged a gross 83 built on a 43 in the first nine holes and 40 in the last. Other RGA members who joined last Saturday's tournament with their net scores in parenthesis were Tars Olopai

(80), Tom Tebuteb (82), Ben Duenas (76), Tony Togolifo (82), Ulysis Kapileo (83), Jess Wabol (79), Carl Hocog (76), Manny Mangarero (79), Thomson Palik (78), Joe Wabol (84), Ned Norita 977), and Joe Lizama (79). Hocog and Jess Wabol won the closest to the pin contest on hole Nos. 7 and 14, respectively.

Meanwhile, RGA's May qualifying tournament will be played on May 8 at the Marianas Country Club. Check-in time is at 11am, while tee off is at 12pm. For more information about RGA tournaments, contact Olopai at 483-5508, Rogolifo at 288-3515, and Jess Wabol at 288-1129.

## FIELDERS

From Page 28

out. The Aces managed a run in the bottom of the sixth off an RBI knock by Secharmidal, but Guerrero weathered the storm in the final stand.

### Survivors 14, Falcons 12

The Falcons took an early 5-1 lead after the opening frame. The first three batters reached off two walks and an error that set up an RBI single by Darion Jones. The next two runs came off wild

pitches and an error later, M.J. Sakisat hit a two-RBI base rip. Survivors' Jeremy Lizama led off with a triple and scored off a balk in the bottom frame.

Then Survivors briefly pulled within a run in the bottom of the second off a couple errors and a wild pitch, but the Falcons got a run back in the top of the third off an RBI knock by James Phillips. Survivors bit down and took the lead, 7-6, off errors in the bottom frame.

After the damage, the Falcons tapped Frankie Lieto to the mound for Sakisat.

Survivors then added a run in

the bottom of the fourth off an error and went ahead, 10-6, in the bottom of the fifth off a two-RBI double by Jose Lizama.

The Falcons then tied the game at 10-all in the top of the sixth. They loaded the bases right away off a hit, an error, and a walk that set up a base clearing triple by Ian Norita; he scored soon after off a wild pitch.

The Survivors called on their fourth pitcher of the game, Jose Lizama, to get out of dodge. The Survivors answered the Falcons with a four-run string in the bottom frame off a double by Fermin Renguul, some wild

pitches, and an RBI single by Jose Lizama.

The Falcons tried to claw their way back in the final stand, but only mustered half the runs required to continue the game.

### Ol'Aces 19, Jets 14 Ol'Aces 10, Lions 8

The Ol'Aces forced a semifinal duel against the IT&E Fielders after recording twin wins over the weekend.

On Sunday, it was a 3-2 game in favor of the Jets after the first inning. Jets broke the ice off an error and a two-RBI single by Nathan Sablan, while the Aces

scored off an error and an RBI rip by Austin Agulto.

The Jets added a run in the second off a base hit by Bret Halstead, but the Aces jumped in front, 6-4, in the bottom frame after a two-RBI base rip by Oscar Stefano and an RBI single by Mike Muna; Verlance Secharmedal also drew a walk and stole home in the inning.

The Aces hung in there to advance to the semis.

Earlier on Saturday against the Lions, the Ol'Aces took an early 4-0 lead after scoring a pair of runs each in the first two innings.

Then The Lions managed two runs in the bottom of the third off Cedric Ada and Jiroh Yobech's RBI singles. Later in the game, the Ol'Aces went ahead, 6-2, in the top of the fifth off RBI singles by Mike Muna and Kenji Yamagata. The Aces added three runs to start the sixth from a stolen dish by Muna and a couple wild pitches, but the

Lions got two runs back in the bottom frame off errors.

J.P. Taitano led off the seventh with a walk and stole home for the Ol'Aces, while his teammates fended off a late four-run rally from the Lions.

### SENIOR LEAGUE Lions 7, Jets 1

The Lions built an early 3-0 lead at the end of the opening frame off a base rip by Lemarc Iguel, a sacrifice fly by Leroy Regis, and an error.

In the third, the Lions added run from a single by Ricardo Delea Cruz that brought in Iguel, who reached off a one-out triple.

Thanks to Lions' hurler Regis, the Jets suffered four 1-2-3 innings and managed just one base runner. He had a one-hit shutout going into the last frame and gave up only one earned run off five hits, a walk, and a bean ball with seven strikeouts.

## PARK

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the rankings after winning the CNMI championships, which awarded the most ranking points among NMITA's five tournaments.

Joining Park and Goodwin in the Top 5 were Clayton Izuka (1,950), Luther Lizama (1,750), and Vincent Tudela (1,050).

Like Park, Ackerman also jumped to the No. 1 ranking after prevailing in the girls U12 singles division in the CNMI championship. The Saipan Community School student came from third place to first after getting 1,500 points, following her finals win over Isabel Heras.

Ackerman capped the season with the most ranking points (4,000) despite missing the Tan Holdings tournament. She surpassed former No. 1 Carol (3,900) and Emily Jones (3,600), who dropped to second and third, respectively. Lee lost the top ranking after bowing to

Ackerman in the semis of the CNMI championship. Jones faltered in her bid for the top rankings when she also lost her semis game over Heras, who finished No. 4 in the girls U12 with her 3,025 points. Rounding out the Top 5 was Tiffany Madlambayan (1,150).

### Living up to expectations

In other ranking results, Thea Minor, Rafael Jones, and Mikayla Lopez delivered as expected.

Thea beat older sister Theecel for the No. 1 ranking in the girls U18 division after winning over Mikayla Lopez in the finals. The younger Minor collected 4,500 points after winning four of the five tournaments of the season. Theecel earned 3,900 for second place, while Amy Arenovski finished third with her 2,350 ranking points.

In the boys U18, Rafael Jones totaled 5,000 after sweeping the last three tournaments of the season. Daniel Park came in at second with 3,275, followed by Clay McCullough-Stearns (2,400),

Christian Miller (1,750), and Andy Nutting (1,000).

In the girls U15, Lopez was a run-away top finisher after ruling four of the five tournaments this season and tallying 5,250 points. Rounding out the Top 5 were Negahr Ratguiy (3,225), Melody Johnson (3,150), Adele Hudkins (2,050), and Alina Ishikawa (1,700).

### Close races

Jake Lee, Moris Villanueva, and Julia Ishikawa kept the top ranking in their respective divisions after their crucial victories last weekend.

In the boys U15 division, Jake Lee kept the No. 1 spot with his 3,750 points after beating Amami Sakano in last weekend's finals. (3,025). Before his title duel over the then third-ranked Sakano last week, Lee was ahead by only 250 ranking points over Miller, who missed the CNMI championships due to sickness, allowing Lee and Sakano to take the Top 2 spots in the age group. Miller dropped to

fourth with his 2,000 points, one notch behind Angelo Jones, who earned 2,100 after a semis stint last weekend. Carl Dela Cruz gained 1,900 to complete the Top 5.

In the boys U12, the No. 1 ranking was not decided until Villanueva and Colin Ramsey finished their title match. Before the championship game, Villanueva was only ahead by 450 rankings points with his 3,000 against Ramsey's 2,550. Villanueva eventually retained the top ranking when he defeated Ramsey and logged 4,500 against the latter's 3,675.

In the girls U10 division, Julia Ishikawa and Tania Tan were tied for first with 1,500 points each before the CNMI championships. The two players met in last weekend's finals and Julia won to take the solo top spot with her 3,000 points against Tan's 2,625.

NMITA ranks players to determine the CNMI's representatives to the North Pacific Qualifying Tournament in Guam.

Olebuu hit an RBI single. Joe Sablan hammered a three-run homer for Calikano-Groupers in the bottom frame.

Calikano then went ahead, 6-4, in the bottom of the second thanks to another three-run shot by Mike Pangelinan. Laolao managed a pair of runs to start the third off an error and an RBI single by Cruz, but Groupers answered with four runs in the bottom frame for a 10-6 lead. Groupers scored off an error, an RBI triple by Navan Falig, and RBI singles by Fred Pangelinan and Kioni Pua.

Groupers went on to hold Laolao scoreless for the rest of the game.

Sablan swung 3-for-3 with three RBIs and two runs.

the fifth off an error, a fielder's choice, and a RBI smash by Thelma Mizer.

Sakudi's Tudela batted 3-for-3 with two RBIs and three runs.

### MEN'S DIVISION V-Power 16, Berdax 10

V-Power took an early 2-1 lead after the first inning. Berdax broke the ice in the top half off a sacrifice fly by C.J. Atalig and V-Power answered off an error and an RBI single Ron Benavente.

Berdax's Larry Roberts led off the second with a solo shot to briefly tie the game, but V-Power went ahead, 5-2, in the bottom frame off a fielder's choice and a two-RBI triple by Ben Mesa. Berdax pulled with-

in a run in the top of the third off a two-run blast by Franco Flores, but V-Power erupted in the bottom frame and went ahead, 11-4.

V-Power loaded the bases right away that set up a base clearing triple by John Acosta; he scored off an error. The other runs came off an error, a fielder's choice, and a sacrifice fly by Benavente. V-Power never looked back from thereon.

Mesa batted 3-for-4 with four RBIs and two runs.

### Calikano-Groupers 12, Laolao Bay 6

Laolao Bay managed an early 4-3 lead after the opening frame. Nick Cruz belted a three-run bomb and Anson

## KFAS

From Page 28

minutes of the second half, but MP United still won after Carrie Schuler made a goal in the 78th minute.

### Paire 5, Tan Holdings 0

In the other game on Saturday, Paire blanked Tan Holdings, 5-0.

Priscilla Norman had a hat-trick for Paire, while Temary Gramlick and Megan Herber notched one goal apiece for

the winning team.

### Shirley's FC 3, Independents 1

In the lone game last Friday, Shirley's Football Club topped Independents, 3-1.

Marilou Gariguez put Shirley's in the scoreboard in the first half and the team posted two more goals in the second half after drawing one each from Alexandria Vergara and Jeraldine Castillo.

Independents' lone goal was courtesy of Catherine Perry.

## SAKUDI

From Page 28

Tudela's base knock.

Both teams came up with four runs apiece in the second inning. Sakudi scored off a two-RBI double by Bert Camacho and a pair of RBI singles by Tudela and Aguon. Enamo answered in the bottom frame off an error, a fielder's choice, and RBI singles by Farrah Iguel and Evelyn Kani.

Enamo managed a run off an error in the bottom half of the third, but Sakudi answered with two runs off errors to start the fourth and take a 13-5 advantage. Sakudi added three runs to its lead in the top of

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
MLB STANDINGS				
New York		9	13	.409 6
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	12	7	.632	—
Tampa Bay	11	11	.500	2 1/2
Boston	10	11	.476	3
Toronto	10	12	.455	3 1/2
Baltimore	8	12	.400	4 1/2
Central Division				
Cleveland	13	8	.619	—
Detroit	12	10	.545	1 1/2
Kansas City	12	10	.545	1 1/2
Minnesota	9	12	.429	4
Chicago	9	14	.391	5
West Division				
Texas	14	8	.636	—
Los Angeles	13	10	.565	1 1/2
Oakland	11	12	.478	3 1/2
Seattle	8	15	.348	6 1/2
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Philadelphia	15	7	.682	—
Florida	14	7	.667	1/2
Washington	10	11	.476	4 1/2
Atlanta	11	13	.458	5
Central Division				
St. Louis	12	10	.545	—
Cincinnati	12	11	.522	1/2
Milwaukee	11	11	.500	1
Chicago	10	12	.455	2
Pittsburgh	10	12	.455	2
Houston	8	14	.364	4
West Division				
Colorado	15	7	.682	—
Los Angeles	12	12	.500	4
San Francisco	10	11	.476	4 1/2
Arizona	9	12	.429	5 1/2
San Diego	9	14	.391	6 1/2
Yesterday's Games				
Chicago White Sox 2, N.Y. Yankees 0				
Toronto 6, Texas 4				
L.A. Angels 5, Oakland 0				
Pittsburgh 4, Washington 2				
Florida 5, L.A. Dodgers 4				
Colorado 5, Chicago Cubs 3				
Cincinnati 9, Milwaukee 5				
Arizona 4, Philadelphia 0				
San Diego 5, Atlanta 3, 13 innings				
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				



# Trech Tech Art of War 6

Photos By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND



Trench Tech's Mylo "The Locksmith" Lassiter, is flanked by Guam's John Aguon Jr., right, and Marianas Elite's Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial during the medal presentation in the heavyweight division.



Shane Aguon, center, Kenji Okiyama, right, and Tex Aguon share the podium after sweeping the bantamweight division.



Joy Fred, left, goes for a triangle submission against his opponent.



Trench Tech's Ning "Bo Slice" Cepeda, left, takes down teammate Ron Chisato.



Trench Tech and Zeng Zung's Keli "Rukiz" Manglona, in green, attempts an arm bar submission on Guam's Universal Alliance's Ryan Bustamante.



Trench Tech's Rey Kim, right, attempts a triangle choke submission on Tim Borja.



Trench Tech's Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez, top, tries to lock in an arm bar against Andrew Sablan.



Keli Manglona locks in a rear naked choke on Trench Tech's Jacob Haught.



Guam Barrigada BJJ's Tex Aguon, left, battles Predator Combat's "Tabi" Jay Muna



Guam's Lloyd Cubacub goes for a rear naked choke submission on Marianas Elite's Eugene Wong in last Saturday's Trench Tech Purebred Art of War 6 Grappling and Submission Challenge at the Trench Tech Gym in San Antonio.





**Judge lifts NFL lockout, league vows appeal**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports



**Grizzlies grab first ever 3-1 series lead over Spurs**

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28 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2011

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Fielders vs Survivors in Jr. League finals

### Park, Ackerman grab top rankings

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Alex Park and Tammy Ackerman seized the No. 1 ranking in their respective divisions after posting victories in Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association's last tournament for the 2010-2011 season.

Occupying the No. 5 spot in the boys U10 rankings before the 2011 CNMI Junior Championships, Park defeated Steven Goodwin in

the finals to gain 1,500 points and bring his total to 2,400, 275 points ahead of the former, who settled for the No. 2 ranking this season.

Park claimed the top ranking despite missing two of the five tournaments in the season. He earned 300 and 600 points in the Tan Holdings and Coconut Classic tournaments, respectively, and missed the DFS and PIC netfests. He then climbed four notches in

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Alex Park, seen here going for a return, took the No. 1 rankings in the boys U10 division after winning in the 2011 CNMI Junior Championships last weekend at the AMP tennis courts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Survivors pitcher Jeremy Lizama dives to tag out a Falcons runner during the sixth inning of their semifinals game in the Junior League division of the Saipan Little League Baseball last Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The IT&E Fielders and Martha Store BTS Survivors arranged a championship duel in the Junior League after downing separate foes in the semifinals.

The Fielders held off the Ol'Aces, 9-7, in the second semis game last night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield, while the Survivors edged the Falcons, 14-12, on Monday night.

The championship game will be played on May 7.

#### Fielders 9, Ol'Aces 7

The Ol'Aces took a 4-0 lead in the opening frame. Verlance

Secharmidal drew a one-out walk and later stole home. The next two batters drew walks and scored off errors and Zack Yamagishi drove in the fourth run with a base rip.

IT&E tapped Keene Guerrero to the mound for Gayvan Uchau to stop the Ol'Aces and the ploy worked. IT&E grabbed the lead, 5-4, in the top of the second inning off a pair of RBI singles by Jack Espinoza and Uchau, and a three-RBI triple by Ian Rogolifo.

The Aces answered in the

bottom frame and reclaimed the lead, 6-5, off an error and an RBI triple by Kenji Yamagata. IT&E came back again in the top of the third and went ahead, 7-6. Espinoza singled in Khobby Kaipat and scored later off a wild pitch; Aces came up empty in the bottom frame.

IT&E added two runs to its lead in the top of the fifth. Espinoza stole home in the mix. The Ol'Aces' Terson Einas was called to the mound for Secharmidal to close the last

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## Sakudi routs Enamo Meta, 16-5

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Sakudi reestablished its dominance in the women's division of the Chamolinian Softball Association-2nd Annual Budweiser Slow-Pitch Softball League after a run-ruled win in five innings over second-ranked Enamo Meta, 16-5, last Monday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Sakudi improved to a 9-1 record, while Enamo's card dropped to 6-3.

In the men's play, V-Power moved up to second place in the standings after down-

ing Berdax, 16-10, while Calikano-Groupers doubled-up Laolao Bay, 12-6.

V-Power is ahead of Man-Amigos (6-2) with its 7-3 record, while Berdax fell to a 4-6 slate. Calikano improved to a 5-6 card and issued Laolao its eighth loss in 10 tries.

#### Sakudi 16, Enamo Meta 5

Sakudi got to work right away with a seven-run tear in the opening frame.

Three runs came off fielder's choices, two off Lilian Aguon's double, one off an error, and one more off Popo

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Sakudi's Popo Tudela swings during their game against Enamo Meta in the 2nd Annual Budweiser Slow-Pitch Softball League on Monday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

## KFAS stuns Paire in men's league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Saipan pulled off a 2-1 upset against the league-leading Paire Football Club during Round 5 of the NMIFA Men's Invitational Football League last Thursday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Young Ha Hwang and Jin Koo Cho scored one goal apiece for KFAS to notch its third win in five games. Paire absorbed its first loss in five matches after drawing only one goal in last week's game.

Jason Schroeder put Paire in the scoreboard with his goal in the 34th minute to tie the game, 1-all. Hwang found the back of the net for KFAS in the 12th minute for the first goal in the game and then KFAS took the lead and the win when Cho scored in the 62nd minute.

In other results, MP United A shut out Bake Du San, 8-0, during Round 6 of the men's league last Sunday.

Ji Yeop Sung and Nick Swaim tallied two goals apiece for MP United A, while Dae Min Jeon, Kirk Schuler, Rokibul Malitha, and Moon Bin Hong added one each for the team's third win. Baek Du San absorbed its fifth loss in six games.

The other match on Sunday between Wild Bills and KFAS was rescheduled due to the unavailability of game officials.

#### WOMEN'S LEAGUE MP United 2, Matansa 1

In the women's 11 aside league, MP United edged Matansa last Saturday, 2-1.

Michelle Masga scored for MP United 10 minutes into the first half for a 1-0 lead. Michiko Tenorio tied the match, 1-all, with her goal in the opening

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